THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 18TH JUNE.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette*, noticing the death of Maharajah Ramanath Tagore, says: The Hindu community of Calcutta, has sustained a great loss by the death of Maharajah Ramanath Tagore, C. S. I. He was a man of broad and advanced views, and, like his brother the well remembered Dwarkanath, a thoroughly loyal supporter of the British rule. He had almost as many friends amongst the Europeans who knew him, as amongst his own countrymen, for to know him was to know a perfect gentleman, a promoter of education and all that tended to improvement and enlightenment, and a giver of widespread charity. We sincerely sympathise with our Hindu friends in their loss of such a leader, and knowing him intimately as we did, we can fully endorse the eloquent tribute paid to his memory in the *Hindoo Patriot*.

THE CAPTAIN of the American Schooner *Lucy* was lately tried at Bangkok on a charge of having assaulted a syce with a goad used by cattle drivers, and thereby caused him serious injury. The Captain was kept in jail for sometime, and then tried and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A lesson for Indian Magistrates of the Leeds, Doyley *cum* Mosley type.

A MERCHANT at Poonamallee has been recently convicted of selling damaged rice which was unfit for human consumption, and sentenced by the Cantonment Magistrate, Major Hamilton, to pay a fine of Rs. 1,000.

THE *Indian Daily News* remarks that though the anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the throne is observed in Madras and Bombay by royal salutes of 101 guns, Calcutta, the capital of the Empire, alone ignores the memories which the day should call forth: the guns of Fort William are silent, and the Empire saves the value of the salute.—The fortieth anniversary falls on the 20th Instant.

THE LEADER threatens us with extinction. It says, "in the early and prospective days of railway enterprise, George Stephenson was asked what would happen if a cow came into collision with an engine in motion. The Great Engineer is said to have replied that it would be very awkward for the cow. For the benefit of the *Patriot* we have rendered Stephenson's rough Doric into smooth Ionic." Heigh mihi! Heigh mihi! What a doom for the *Patriot*! It is consolatory, however, to think that the engine has already come into violent contact with the Viceroy, the Lieutenant Governor, the Civil Service, the British Indian Association, and the like, without producing any perceptible smash, and the Patriot might likewise escape unhurt. The fly on the wheel said "what a dust we raise!"

WE LEARN from the *Athenæum* that the Trustees of the British Museum are in treaty for the purchase of a copy of the largest book in the world. Towards the close of the 17th century the reigning Emperor of China appointed an Imperial Commission to reprint in one vast collection all native works of interest and importance in every branch of literature. In the beginning of the following century the Commissioners completed their labours, and were able to lay before the Emperor a very palpable proof of their diligence in the shape of a compilation consisting of 6,109 volumes, entitled "Kin tin koo kin too shoo tseih ching," or "An Illustrated Imperial Collection of Ancient and Modern Literature." Only a small edition was printed off in the first instance, and before long the greater part of the copper types which had been cast for the undertaking were purloined by untrustworthy officials, and the remainder were melted down and coined into cash. Accidents by fire and by violence have considerably reduced the number of copies of the imperial edition originally printed, and it is believed that only a comparatively few now remain extant. The Trustees of the British Museum having become aware that one such copy has lately been offered for sale at Pekin, have entered into negociations for its purchase, and it is much to be hoped that they may succeed in adding this rare and interesting collection to the national library.

AT PRESENT letters by post are allowed to be registered on the payment of a fee of four annas; but the senders remain in ignorance as to the safe arrival of their letters to the addressees. A new arrangement has, we hear, been made, by which, on the payment of an additional fee of one anna, the post-master at the place to which any letter may be addressed, will return to its sender a receipt signed by the addressee. This arrangement will prove very convenient and satisfactory to the public.

TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE.

THE SALE of the Muree house of Sir Henry Davis to the Maharajah of Kashmir for the sum of Rs. 60,000 has given rise to unpleasant remarks and criticisms. Mr. Lepel Griffin has indignantly come forward and explained the facts of the case. He says that the rumour, regarding the dissatisfaction expressed by the Maharajah with the bargain, is absolutely false, and the whole story a contemptible slander. We agree with Mr. Griffin. Sir Henry Davis is above lending himself to any dubious course of this sort. It would be well, however, for all parties concerned, if such transactions did not take place at all, as the relation in which the Governor of a province stands to a feudatory of the Government is delicate in the extreme. Money transactions between such parties are likely to give rise to unpleasant remarks. There are certain rules on the subject and they prohibit all sale and barter between Civil Servants and persons over whom they are placed to rule. But the good sense of the highest officials in the land ought to render such rules superfluous.

THE HEALTH-OFFICER of Calcutta may well put a feather on his cap for the very favorable notice which has been taken by the Government of India of his last quarterly report. The "Governor General in Council has read the report with much interest," and is of opinion "that the Health-Officer of Calcutta appears to be doing excellent work." The ugly word "appears" apart,—with this certificate in his pocket he may well snap his fingers at the faces of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta, some of whom are so sceptical about the value of his arduous exertions in the cause of sanitation. We believe certificates like the one under notice, used also to come pretty regularly from the Indian Government, from the Secretary of State, and from the Army Sanitary Commission, testifying to the good work done by the late Health-Officer. They were as regular in their appearance as the seasons, or the cholera, and Gallic feeling was not a little soothed by the balm they afforded; and yet at last the bubble burst, and the necessity arose for getting rid of a bad bargain by a peace offering of five and thirty thousand rupees. We do not, by any means, wish to "insinivate" that such a contingency will ever again arise, but, in these days of red tape and bunkum, thinking people do not accept official thanks without the traditional grain of salt. By the way, the report in question gives the total of deaths for the quarter at 3523, and of births at 1710, or about one-half of deaths. In England the ratio of birth to death is as 35-4 to 22-5, that is births exceed deaths by one-third; and there is a notion also prevalent that people in the torrid zone are more prolific than in snow and ice. If there be any truth in the English returns and the notion we refer to, our returns should be susceptible of some slight amendment yet before they can be accepted as safe guides.

THE INDIAN TRIBUNE has thus taken the *Pioneer* to task for breach of etiquette: "The *Pioneer*, incidentally alluding to the death of Maharajah Ramanath Tagore, speaks of the lamented deceased as "Babu" Ramanath. We regret to have to teach our contemporary in his old age the propriety of designating a person by his right title and addition; *suum cuique tribuere*, to every one his due."

THE SAME PAPER mentions that "of late the Shere allay Sub-Magistrate has been engaged in discovering some hidden treasure near the Conkanies Pagoda at Thoroor, the existance of which was made known to the Sirkar by the Conkanni Swamiar, with the aid of some old records. The Tahsildar after digging in some places at last succeeded in hitting upon the right spot. Gold coins, gold silver-figures, elephants &c., of exquisite work manship, and ingots of gold and silver were dug out. It is said that the value of the discovered treasure amounts to Rs. 50,000.

HERR KRUPP, the celebrated Prussian artillerist, has completed a monster piece of ordnance. The length of the gun is 29 feet, the calibre 15¾ inches. The weight of the projectile will be 750 kilegrammes or nearly twenty maunds and the powder charge 396 lbs. The external diameter of the gun at the muzzle is 2 feet 3½ inches. It is provided with a pivot carriage of wrought iron weighing 45 tons. The cost of the gun, exclusive of the carriage, is Rs. 200,000.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE.

IT IS STATED that the name of Mr. Robert Knight, editor of the *Statesman* and *Friend of India*, has been removed from the list of persons entitled to receive *invites* to Vice-regal parties on State and other occasions, as a punishment for the undue freedom with which he criticizes the action of the Government. We do not know how far this is correct, but it will grieve us if the fact, as stated above, be correct. We cannot readily believe Lord Lytton liable to stoop to such littleness. We do not always approve of the tone, of the *Statesman* but the idea of controlling the opinion of the press by stopping dinner cards is not to our liking. To Mr. Knight we can only say in the words of George Wither:

> Whether thralléd or exiled,
> Whether poor or rich thou be,
> Whether praiséd or reviled,
> Not a rush it is to thee.

AT THE last examination of the Faculty of Medicine, London University, the gold medal for Chemistry was awarded to Mr. J. Sakurai, a Japanese.

WE LEARN from the *Englishman* that the Madras Government has been directed by the Government of India to compile a statement of the war services of native officers in that Presidency, and to supply each regiment with a copy of the same. This rule should be adopted in all the Presidencies, but instead of one copy to each regiment, each officer, whose name occurs in the golden roll, should be furnished with a copy, as it will be a source of great gratification to those native officers who have grown grey in the service of Government, and will encourage younger men to aspire to have their names included in this Register of Fame.

THE LONDON correspondent of the *Statesman* states that Mr. Lowe has given notice that, on the first day after the holidays, he will call attention to the correspondence (Leeds and Fuller case), and move an address that Her Majesty will give directions that no attempt be made by the Executive, in any part of her dominions, to influence any of Her Majesty's Judges in the administration of justice.

WE LEARN from a contemporary that the Mahanuddee very suddenly rose fourteen feet above its ordinary level on the 23rd May last. Fourteen women, who were crossing the river bed when the flood came down, were swept away and drowned.

THE MAHOMEDAN residents of Hydrabad have sent Rs. 61,000 to the Duke of Sutherland for the relief of the wounded soldiers of Turkey.

IT IS SAID that the Government of India has made all the necessary arrangements for sending a contingent of 40,000 troops from India to Egypt should necessity arise for this step. It is probably for this that the Government have been making enquiries here as to the steam tonnage available at a month's notice.

AMONG THE pictures of the Royal Academy Exhibition, says the *Times of India*, here we are glad to note that there are no less than four water colours by Mr. Griffiths of our School of Art. One of these, a picture of street life in India, is an exact, though artistic, reproduction of a street in the native town of Bombay, with its tall houses and its bustling crowds representing half a dozen different races in their bright and various garments —painted in the full glare of an Indian noon. This picture was bespoken by the Prince of Wales, when he visited Mr. Griffiths' studio. Two pictures have been purchased by Lord Northbrook—"a Scene at a well" and a "Rohilla Sentinel"; and a fourth—"A Drink by the Way"—was so far honoured, that Mr. Poynter secured it at once for the South Kensington Museum.

IT IS SAID that the fort of Gwalior is to be put in a state of thorough repair, and that accomodation will be provided for a larger number of troops than what it can now accomodate.

A PROCLAMATION has been published in the *Moniteur Officiel* of Pondicherry enforcing strict neutrality on French subjects in India in relation to the Russo-Turkish war. Vessels of either of the bellegerents, coming to a French port with a prize, will not be allowed to remain more than 24 hours. There is no chance, however, of a rencontre between a Russian and Turkish war-ship in Indian waters.

THE BOMBAY Municipality is going to have a *real* Cost of Arms of its own. At the last Meeting of the Bombay Town Council, the Secretary, Mr. Barrow, submitted a design which was approved. The arms, with but slight alterations, are the same as those granted to the East India Company, more than two and half centuries ago, by His Majesty James the First. The design will be sent to England for the sanction of the College of Heralds, and the usual fee will have to be paid to that Institution. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Readymoney has placed at the disposal of the Municipal Commissioners the funds required for this purpose. An appropriate motto is only wanting, and this important point is now under consideration of the Commissioners. The Calcutta Corporation has two adjutants for supporters of their shield, but we presume these symbols are not intended to imply that more is done here by birds than men.

THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE.

WE HEAR that the clerks in the office of the Locomotive Detail Stores, E. I. R. Allahabad, have struck work in a body, and have telegraphed to the Locomotive Superintendent, Mr Campbell at Jamalpore, of their having done so. They complain of the hardship they are subjected to in having only one hour's leave for breakfast, within which time they are required to go to their lodgings, a mile distant from the town, to eat their breakfast and to return again. They had hitherto submitted to this rule, but a recent order prohibiting them from crossing the line deprived them of a short cut, and they found it impossible to travel two miles, make their ablutions and eat their breakfast within so short a time. Their representation on this subject to the District Locomotive Superintendent has not been listened to, and they therefore left off work. Their dismissal has been recommended, and, in the meantime, new men have been appointed in their place. Strikes to enforce rights are radically bad, and should be put down with a high hand, but when a real grievance is brought to light, it should be removed.

THE FOLLOWING gentlemen have been appointed Commissioners of the Municipality for the Suburbs of Calcutta: Dr. S. C. Mackenzie, Pundit Pran Nath Saraswati; Babu Radhikapersad Mookerjee, Sahebzadah Mohammad Warazuddin, Prince Nasseruddeen Hyder, Babu Bhuggobutty Churn Mullick, Anand Mohun Bose, Esq. Babu Biprodas Banerjee, Babu Juggodanund Mookerjee and Babu Jodulal Mullick.

MR. DOBSON, the Superintendent of the Rangoon jail, had a novel idea, which enabled him to put down a revolt among the native prisoners in his charge. Having no confidence in the fidelity or courage of the police or jail peons, he appealed to the European prisoners for assistance, who promptly responded to his call, and in a short time the mutineers were driven back to their cells, and order was restored.

WONDERFUL FEAT in Billiard playing:

Mr. Carme, the celebrated French billiard player, is giving a series of exhibitions in Shanghai; and it is difficult to speak too highly of his play. The skill with which he directs the balls anywhere about the table, and then by a change of tactics, as quick suit as skilful, gathering them into a corner, making a score or so off the reds and then another score or so off the red and white—now playing only three balls, presently bringing all four into play—is really wonderful. The delicacy of some of the strokes is only equalled by the success that attends them, and the ease with which they are given. After the termination of each game, the Professor gives a few of what he terms "fancy shots." These display the certainty of his aim, and the sureness of his play even more than in the game. Their number is greater than we care to follow; to cannon from a ball on one table to another on a second table five feet distant is no easy matter, but it was done; and so, at the second attempt, was a cannon made from a ball on the table to another in a hat held a couple of feet above the table. Again sending a ball spinning along the table a second was struck, and a cannon made at the exact angle intended. But these seemed as nothing compared with what followed. Drawing an arc of a circle about eighteen inches in diameter in chalk at one end of the table, the Professor placed at first eight and afterwards a dozen balls close together at the other end, the object being to play them one immediately after the other and place them all within the arc. In both instances this was done to perfection, none of the balls, although flying over the table at as many angles, ever touching, and all following each other, as the impetus declined, to within the magic arc with unerring certainty. Even this was eclipsed by the final performance. Sixteen bottles were placed at different angles around the cushion and bed of the table, and the Professor, in like manner to the preceding sent about seven balls one after the other flying amongst them without either touching each other or the bottles, and all, as before, gathering at the finish within the arc. The loudest applause greeted the success of this splendid play.

IT IS RUMOURED that Baboo Isser Chunder Mitter has been offered the new appointment of Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal on a salary of Rs. 800 per month. In the regular line of promotion the Baboo is entitled to Rs. 800 immediately, and he has therefore the choice between independence in a Sub-division and the luxury of home and the title of Assistant Secretary.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE has been requested by the Government of Bengal to convey to Baboo Prosad Doss Dutt an expression of the Lieutenant Governor's satisfaction in having done more than his agreement bound him to do in the construction of the protective works on Dhobelat on Saugor Island. Baboo Prosad Dass Dutt's grant is in a flourishing condition owing to the constant and close personal supervision maintained by him. His ryots almost idolize him for the fatherly interest he takes for their welfare. "Baboo Prosad Doss Dutt," says the Sunderbun Commissioner, "is one of the best Sunderbun grantees I have known, and was one of the first who gave efficient help to his ryots in the cyclones that swept over Saugor Island in 1864 and 1867." The Sunderbun grantees should take a leaf out of the book of Baboo Prosad Doss Dutt in the management of their respective *abads*.

FRIDAY, 22ND JUNE.

THE BOMBAY CORRESPONDENT of the *Pioneer* states that "there have been distressing rumours all this week of serious deficiencies in the accounts of the late Official Assignee. I am glad to state that the sums that have been named are far in excess of the amount which may prove ultimately to be missing. But there seems little doubt that there have been great irregularities, by whomsoever committed, in the way in which the accounts have been kept, and Sir Michael Westropp has appointed a small commission to report on the matter." We remember the great scandal in the Official Assignee's Office in Calcutta in the days of Sir Thomas Turton. Is it Bombay's turn this time? The "disease of the *chest*," is however not peculiar to those who have the misfortune to hold the office of Official Assignee. Whenever there are weak or ill protected chests it is very liable to break out.

IT IS SAID that the Madras Government has issued a circular forbidding money transactions of any kind whatever between Europeans and natives of the Ordnance Department. We should like very much to know what new revelation has caused the Madras Government to pass this order. Orders like the above have issued without number, but they, like unkianised iron, are very likely to get rusty, and very frequently prove quite inefficient.

THE RUMOUR of the release of Yakub Khan from imprisonment turns out to be untrue. The Amir of Cabul, it is said, has become extremely suspicious of strangers entering his territory, and he is far from feeling himself at ease.

WE ARE INFORMED that Sir Salar Jung had a very narrow escape on the 14th instant. The horses of the carriage, in which he was going to receive Sir Richard Meade at the station, took fright and bolted. The carriage was dashed against a shop; a milkman was killed on the spot, but His Excellency and those who were with him in the carriage fortunately escaped unhurt.

THE CAREFUL STUDY of the modern English poets by our University and College students has resulted in the successful introduction of English meters in Bengali poetry, and in the blending of European sentiments with the poetic fervor of the East. This is exemplified in the small poem entitled "Nalini," by Babu Adharlal Sen. Within its limited compass the author has displayed much richness of imagery and considerable warmth of feeling, in a style partly European and partly Oriental, and we cannot but congratulate him on the success of his effort. We would, however give him one friendly advice, and that is, to avoid the temptation of drifting, at times, into stiff and "stilted" language, which is so different from the language of the heart.

THE MAHARAJAH of Ulwar has selected for his new coinage a design submitted by Major Luard, when acting as Mint Master, Calcutta. The obverse will bear the image of the Empress and the reverse the name of the Maharajah. Two and half lacs worth of silver bullion has been sent to the Calcutta Mint.

SOMETHING is the matter with the fishes in Calcutta. The Police took out on Friday last a goodly number of dead fishes of large size from the Dhurrumtollah tank. A considerable crowd collected round the tank to share in the spoil, but the Police had instructions not to allow people to take the fish away, as it might prove injurious to health if used as food. The cause of this mortality among the finny tribe has not been officially announced, but it is well known to owners of large tanks that the drying of the tanks during the hot weather, and consequent over-crowding, are the causes.

THE LETTER I, signifying Imperatrix, has been added to her monogram by her Majesty the Queen. The letters will henceforth be 'V. R. I.'

IT IS SAID that 125,000 gold coins have been sent to Cabul by Shaghazi Sheredil Khan, and that the gold has come from the Russian treasury through Turkestan. The *Pioneer* quaintly remarks: "Russia, as we all know, is rolling in riches at present, and does not know on what to spend her wealth; so the story is plausible in the highest degree!"

THE ENGLISH MEDICAL JOURNALS announce that in August next, seventeen vacancies will be open to competition in the Indian Medical Service; and the Director General of the Army Medical Department states that fifty appointments will, on the above date, be available in that Department.

IT IS RUMOURED, says the *Indian Daily News*, that the Hooghly River Survey, now under the charge of Captain Laycock, will very shortly be transferred to the Port Commissioners, that an office establishment will be organized, and that a Royal Navy officer, of some years' practical experience, will be placed at its head as "Conservator of the River Hooghly."

SATURDAY, 23RD JUNE.

WE SEE from the *London Gazette* that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Baboo Romesh Chunder Mitter to be a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, in the room of F. A. B. Glover, deceased.

WE HAVE lost sight of our North-West weather prophet for a long time. We wonder whether he has burnt his book, buried his staff and taken to some thing else. But a prophet, it seems, has sprung up in our own city. The following has appeared in the columns of the *Indian Daily News*: Sir,—Will you kindly inform the public through the medium of your paper that there will be incessant rain at least for a week in Calcutta from and after this date, and if this will avail the Calcutta Community? Yours &c., (Sd.) C. Rappa. Alms House, 22nd June 1877." After a drought of more than a fortnight and intense heat, the rain poured down early on the morning of the 23rd, and since then we are having rain daily, and the weather continues murky.

THE LAST number of the *Charivari* has come to hand. The album portrait this time is that of the Hon'ble G. G. Morris, Judge of the High Court, "Billiards in Ermine," as the *Charivari* has it, with the usual notice by *Buck*. The cartoon is not bad, and the other sketches spirited.

WE HAVE been informed that the investigation regarding the mysterious death of Ramgati Biswas, of Sreecole, Chooadanga Subdivision, is still going on under the direction and personal superintendence of Mr. Skrine. We have every confidence in the energy and intelligence of this officer who is exceedingly popular among the natives, and we have no doubt that the investigation will be properly conducted and brought to a successful issue. We have received a detailed narrative of all the circumstances of the case, and we have been promised further particulars, which, however, we shall keep back pending the result of the investigation now going on.

A DISPENSARY has recently been opened in Baranossy Ghose's Street, No. 55, for the convenience of the neighbourhood. Assistant-Surgeon Baboo Gobind Chunder Dutt, lately a practitioner in Hooghly, and now residing close to the above dispensary, has, we hear, agreed to attend patients at the dispensary morning and evening without any charge for advice.

WE BEG to acknowledge the receipt of the following periodicals and publications:—1. Bengali Mensuration, by Baboo Hurry Churn Roy. 2. The National Magazine for September 1876. 3. Civil Service Supply Association Export List. 4. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for May 1877. 5. The Annual Report of the Soldiers' Total Abstinence Association for 1876-77. 6. Manchester and India by Mr. R. Knight. 7. Pandavacharit Kavya, by Baboo Bhoobun Mohun Roy Chowdry. 8. Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for 1876.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 15th June.—In the House of Commons last night Sir Stafford Northcote, answering a question, confirmed the report that Russia had declared she would neither blockade, interrupt, nor menace the navigation of the Suez Canal. No answer has yet been received from the Porte or the Khedive to Lord Derby's despatch on the same subject. Turkish Constantinople papers commenting on peace rumours are opposed to peace.

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London, 15*th June*.—The forcing of the Duga Pass by Pacha Suleiman is unconfirmed. After some desperate fighting the result was indecisive, both sides maintaining their positions. Suleiman Pacha has returned to Kristatch.

The latest advices from Armenia state that Ahmed Mukhtar Pacha is strongly entrenched at Zewin, and that his right wing confronts the Russian left wing in the district of Alaschgerd. The Turkish troops at Olti are advancing towards Pennek. According to Russian official despatches, the Turks are endeavoring to counteract the Russian siege-works before Kars by frequent sorties of the garrison.

London, 19*th June*.—A despatch from the Governor of Soukoum Kaleh states that the Turkish troops have crossed the Kodor River, and defeated the Cossacks.

In the House of Lords last night, the Duke of Argyle enquired into the relations between the Indian Government and the Ameer of Afghanistan. He said the Ameer believed that England intended aggression. Lord Salisbury said it was true that the Ameer refused to admit an English Resident, but untrue that any massing of troops on the North-West frontier of India concerned negotiations at Peshwar between the Afghan Envoy and Sir Lewis Pelly. It was also untrue that the relations between the Indian Government and the Ameer had undergone material change. Lord Lawrence urged vigilance. Lord Northbrook approved of Lord Salisbury's re-assuring statement.

Paris, 16*th June*.—Marshall MacMahon has sent a message, asking the Senate's assent to dissolve the Chamber, because the Government was unable to exist with the present Chamber without submitting to the Radicals, and thus paving the way for the latter to power. The Senate has referred this message to a Committee.

A passionate debate took place in the Chamber of Deputies on the message.

London, 17*th June*.—Latest Advices from the seat of war in Armenia state that the Turkish right wing has assumed the offensive, and that the Russians have made repeated attacks on Kars which have been repulsed.

Prince Milan of Servia has arrived at Ploysti.

Obituary—Justice Mellish and Miss Mary Carpenter.

Constantinople, 18*th June*.—The Egyptian Contingent has arrived here. Nicksics has been re-victualled. No news from the seat of war on the Danube, the river being still high Latest news from Armenia states that Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha has received a reinforcement of twenty-four battalions. A despatch from Ahmed Mukhtar states that he has defeated the Russians at Alaschgerd after severe fighting.

London, 19*th June*.—The Montenegrins announce that they have defeated a force under Mehemed Pacha, who has been compelled to fall back, leaving 2,000 dead on the field.

It is semi-officially stated at Saint Petersburg, that mediation in the Turco-Russian War is possible (impossible ?), and furthermore that it was never even proposed. The Hereditary Prince of Bokhara has arrived at Constantinople for the purpose of submitting a plan of attack on Russia, and enlisting Mussulmans.

London, 20*th June*.—Suleiman Pacha has left Nicksics, and entered Montenegro in order to join up with the Turkish corps in Albania. The Montenegrins have abandoned the Duga Pass, and are concentrating on Ostrog.

London 22*nd June*.—A long debate took place in the House of Commons last night on the Indian Budget. Sir G. Campbell moved a resolution against the growth of the Indian debt and urged the appointment of an independent authority to decide as to the proper classification of the expenditure. Mr. Smollett denounced the extraordinary expenditure on the public works. Mr. Laing deprecated the pessimist views taken, and said that he believed the finances of India to be in sound condition. Mr. Fawcett denied that the Indian revenue was increasing, and censured the growth of the home charges. Since the 16th instant, when the Turks were defeated and compelled to fall back, the Turkish right wing has taken up a position in the defile of Delibaba. There has been continuous fighting with indecisive result in the Ostrog defiles since Sunday.

23.—The latest advices state that the Turks have recaptured Bayazid, and threaten the Russian communications. The Russian internal loan of 200 million roubles has been issued. A general conflagration took place at St. John's New Brunswick, on the 20th and 21st instant, which, aided by a strong wind, almost completely destroyed the entire place. The whole of the business quarter was destroyed, and the damage done is estimated at fifteen million dollars. Thousands of people are rendered houseless by the fire.

THE HIGH COURT has ordered the conviction and proceedings in the case of Mary Donelly to be quashed, on the ground that there was no precedent for holding that a Judge, sitting as a sole judge of facts, could himself give evidence in a case which he was trying; and that, moreover, there was no fresh evidence before the Magistrate which could justify his re-trying the case. This is what we had expected. The law about re-opening a case after a defendant has been once discharged, as interpreted by the Magistrate and the Sessions Judge, was so monstrous, that it needed only an appeal before a trained barrister judge to be set aside. And yet we think with the Editor of the *Indian Daily News* that "it is doubtful whether, if half-a-dozen natives had been hanged under it, any thing would have been heard about it in Calcutta."

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1877.

CODIFICATION.

MR. STOKES had a tempting subject for his maiden speech at the first sitting of the Viceregal Legislative Council at Simla. In moving for leave to introduce a Bill relating to the transfer of property, he held forth on the fertile theme of Codification. The speech he delivered was practical, technical and business-like rather than scholarly, philosophical or profound. It was, however, comprehensive. The speaker traversed over the whole range of Indian laws, which, in his opinion, require codification. He first combated the objections usually taken to codification, which he summarized as follows: (1) that a Code cannot provide for future cases, in other words, that it is necessarily incomplete; (2) that in the attempt to be systematic and concise the language of codifiers must be left open to different interpretations; (3) that a Code is inflexible and does not adapt itself to the expanding wants of the society for which it is framed; and (4) that the Codes which have been framed for foreign countries, in particular France and Prussia, have been failures. He disposed of these objections in a somewhat summary manner. Thus with regard to the first he remarked: "it is true that a Code cannot provide for all cases, but is that any reason for not providing for as many as possible?" It might be said in reply that a Code cannot then completely fulfil its main object, *viz.*, the diminution of judicial discretion. Respecting the second objection—that the language of a Code must be open to different interpretations—Mr. Stokes answers that this objection equally applies to judge made law. The question then arises, how does codification set at rest doubts and ambiguities? In practice we find that the laws, which have been codified, have been greatly supplemented by judge-made law. Even the concrete illustrations, which are certainly very useful, have not obviated conflicting views of law. As to the inflexibility of a Code, the objection in India, says Mr. Stokes, means this, "that it is better for the barrister-judges (who, as a rule, lead the High Court) to make the law as they go along, than for the legislature, aided as it is by the advice of every capable person in the country, to make the law as a guide beforehand." He continues "I feel as strongly as any one that the development of a country's law should be, as far as possible, the natural outgrowth of its material and social wants and of its highest ethical ideas. But for ascertaining these wants, for recognizing these ideas, the supreme Indian legislature is, and must always be, far more favourably situated than a body of judges whose experience is, as a rule, limited to their courts, who are generally ignorant of the languages of the people, and whose ability and learning (considerable as they are at present) will steadily deteriorate as the pecuniary attractions of India diminish. We should remember, too, that the machinery of Indian legislation is singularly swift and simple, and that as soon as the expediency of any amendment is established, there is no difficulty in having it at once effected." We do not quite concur with Mr. Stokes on this point. It is not correct to say that the judge-made law in this country means the law laid down by the Barrister Judges only. In the days of the old Sudder Dewany Adalut the bulk of the judiciary law emanated from the Civilian Judges, who knew the languages of the people, their customs, habits and manners. In these days, it is true, there has been a fusion of the Barrister and Civilian elements in the High Court, but it has been a decided advantage. It would be unjust to assume that the Civilian Judges are mere dead weights. They bring local experience and knowledge of the Indian law to bear upon the juridical learning of their Barrister colleagues, and the opinions, which are evolved out of such combination cannot certainly be valueless. On the other hand it cannot be pretended that the Indian Legislation, as at present constituted, is best fitted to ascertain accurately the "material and social wants" of the people. The Law Member himself, with due deference to him, we submit, is, like the Barrister judges, unacquainted with the languages of the people, and stands wholly aloof from them. Indeed, in the last mentioned respect he is worse situated, for the Barrister Judges, by reason of their daily contact with the native bar, and of the numerous cases which come before them, connected with native customs, habits and feelings, are in a better position to understand than the lawyer who is shut up in his own closet, and forms opinions from the bowels of his own consciousness. Then, he is surrounded by colleagues, who, by training, habit and association, are accustomed to look at things from an executive point of view. Their likes and dislikes run in one groove. They cannot elevate themselves from the platform of the prejudices of executive officers. They represent the despotic idea, and are consequently unable to put themselves in a judicial frame of mind. The judges are a jealous body, jealous of law and the liberty of the subject, and their judicial temperament is the best protection of the rights and interests of the people. We do not mean to say that judge-made law is always good or beneficial, but there is one advantage, it being in its nature variable, at every stage a succession of new and vigorous minds is brought to bear upon its interpretation. Mr. Stokes says that the machinery of Indian legislation is simple and swift; if there be any necessity of change, it can be at once effected. Well, but the legislature cannot and ought not to move on a trifle, it must wait and wait till a fair case is made out for its interference. If the legislature were to interpose its authority in every case of conflict of opinion among the Judges, or in every case of what it may conceive misinterpretation of its intention, then there would be such a multiplication of laws that the cardinal object of codification would be altogether defeated. If the object of codification be the simplification of law, and the aggregation of the atoms scattered over a vast area, how can that object be accomplished when the Legislature is converted into a standing committee? We do not think that Mr. Stokes means this, that he would allow the substantive law to be changed at every breath of the legal wind; but if he does, then he practically recognizes the utility of judiciary law. To our mind no amount of codification can completely shut up judge-made law. Then again the Law Member is the mere oracle of the coterie to which he gives the law and from which he makes the law. There is not one member in the Council who possesses his special knowledge, or who can meet him on a common ground. The consequence is, that, as regards the principles embodied in our legislative enactments, they are the emanations of one mind, save when they are tempered in matters affecting executive administration or the executive authority, by the ideas of his colleagues with executive experience. If that one mind is well balanced, temperate, and broad, the result is certainly satisfactory, but it could not be denied that if there were a few more minds of equal calibre in the Council, it would be advantageous. Hence it is we advocate the re-appointment of some of the most eminent and experienced Barrister-Judges to the Legislative Council. We now come to the fourth or last objection noticed by Mr. Stokes, which is, that certain foreign Codes have been failures and that therefore all codification must fail. Of course this is no argument. If there has been failure in one case, there has been success in other cases. As Mr. Stokes pointed out, the *Code Napoleon* and the Prussian Code had been framed at a time when the science of law-making was not so well understood as it is now. Besides, they could not be justly pronounced absolute failures. They led the way, as it were, to future success. The first attempts are always the most difficult, and even if they prove failures, they are much valuable to the cause of knowledge than subsequent success, for it is from these failures success springs.

From what we have said above let it not be understood that we are opposed to codification. The Codes, which have been passed by the Indian Legislature, are certainly most valuable. The Indian Penal Code is the highest effect of the juridical intellect of England represented in the Indian Government. It has proved a boon to the country. The codification of the civil and criminal procedures has certainly been of immense advantage. The Contract, Evidence, and Limitation Acts are equally useful. We do not think that there was equal necessity for the Specific Relief Act. The other Acts, which Mr. Stokes seems to regard as Codes, but which we consider as special laws affecting special classes, such as the Succession Act and the Divorce Act, have also been useful. We do not of course take that sanguine view of the advantages of codification, which Mr. Stokes does. We admit that it tends to "save the Judges and Pleaders the vast amount of labour now forced upon them in searching for precedents in reports and text-books, but

we are not prepared to say that it will cheapen the cost of litigation, or enable the Government to diminish the number of Judges. It cannot be pretended that in the Mofussil or in the Appellate High Courts the Codes, which have already been enacted, has diminished the cost of litigation, far less enabled the Government to reduce the number of Judges. It is true that a well-digested Code is a safe guide to an untrained judge, but that it tends to reduce appeals in this country, experience does not show. Codification may narrow the field of technicalities, but we have seen that when a Judge is disposed to be technical, a Code cannot restrict him within the four corners of the law—he is sure to shoot outside. The process of codification certainly affords an opportunity for settling by legislative enactment many disputed questions, which the courts would never be able to settle. But the question is whether the solution is always right. As we have said above, it is one mind which decides, and it is exceedingly desirable that a few more minds of that stamp should be associated with it in order to secure a satisfactory decision. As for extending codification to the social law of the natives, we hope it will never be attempted. On this point we agree with Sir Edward Bayley.

The range of subjects, which Mr. Stokes has in view for codification, is too vast for the official life-time of one, two or even three members successively. He says: "First, we have to finish and then to arrange our code of the law of Contract. Here the following subjects have still to be dealt with: Sales of immoveable property; Mortgages and changes on land; Leases; Fixtures; Settlements; Powers; Exchanges; Insurance (Marine, Fire and Life); Carriers (Marine and Inland); Bottomry, Respondentia and other liens on Moveables; Negotiable Instruments." As regards Personal Wrongs Mr. Stokes says: "it would be most conveniently dealt with in a Code of the law Torts or Actionable Wrongs." There is then "the law of Personal Relations, namely, Husband and Wife, Parent and Child, Guardian and Ward, Master and Apprentice, Master and Servant." With regard to the last Mr. Stokes remarks, "much of the harshness with which [illegible]opeans and East Indians sometimes treat native servants is due, I am convinced, to the absence of any distinct, ascertainable law as to their respective rights and duties." There is next the Law of Property, that is, Transfer, "Trusts, Servitudes (or Easement) and Boundaries." We next notice the subjects of "Shipping, Corporate Property, Patents, Copyright and Trade-marks." Further there is the law "relating to the acquisition of property, by (1) Occupancy or Prescription; (2) Accession; (3) Transfer *inter vivos*; (4) Will; (5) Succession." Then there is the great body of the Hindu and Mahomedan laws. The only parts of the Hindu law administered by the Indian Courts, relate "to Inheritance Maintenance, Partition of undivided property, Widow's Estate, Mortgages and adoption." Mr. Stokes admits that "there are serious difficulties in the way of touching any of these laws; first, because they are all believed to be founded on a divine revelation, and great suspicion would certainly be excited if we *mlechchhas* attempted to meddle with them; secondly, because they vary, more or less, in Bengal, Madras and Bombay (take for example the power of a widow to adopt), and uniformity, one great object of a Code, could not therefore be secured save with the certainty of change and the probability of much irritation; thirdly, because many of the sources of the Hindu law have either not been translated at all, or (like the *Vyavahara Mayukha*) translated so badly as to mislead rather than guide, fourthly, because even supposing we succeed in codifying the Hindu law, the result would certainly not be applicable to the Hindus and Sikhs of the Panjab, nor to the non-Aryan and non-Bramanic population of the south of India, nor (I believe) to the Hindus in the Central Provinces, where local custom overrides Brahmanic jurisprudence, nor to the aboriginal hill tribes any where; lastly, because by codification we should stereotype laws which, however interesting from the archæological point of view, have (like all laws based on theological ideas) something irrational and inhuman about them." With regard to the Mahomedan law Mr. Stokes says, "there would obviously be great political danger and no practical advantage in codifying the Mahomedan law, which, as every one knows, is founded on the Koran, and the Traditions and the Maxims which have been developed out of them." It will be thus seen that the range of subjects for Mr. Stokes' labour is very wide. He admits that before these various measures are matured and passed into law, the present members of the Council shall, so far as India is concerned, have attained to official *nirvann*. He, however, anticipates much opposition, particularly from the members of his own profession. He says, "some of the judges will, I fear, oppose codification, because when once it is achieved, it will limit their discretion and reduce them from their present position of judicial lawgivers to the comparatively humble, but useful, employment of interpreting and carrying out the will of the legislature. The baser sort of my own profession (not, I am glad to say, the more enlightened and unselfish members of it) will naturally oppose every thing that tends to make the law clear and accessible, and thus to diminish litigation." Perhaps this apprehension is not unfounded. We need only say that if the codification means consolidation of the existing laws, it will not evoke much opposition, but if it be accompanied with considerable modification and amendment *a la* Civil Procedure Code, it is sure to stir up opposition.

BREACH OF FAITH.

THE ENGLISHMAN'S correspondent, *Junius*, writes three columns of that broad sheet in reply to our article on his first letter on the law of the Permanent Settlement. The writer has brought a load of legal lore to bear upon the subject. He has quoted legal maxims, history, decisions, opinions, and what not, in support of his position, but he has unfortunately missed the real point at issue. That point is, that the British Indian Association maintains that the imposition of the Public Works Cess on permanently settled estates in Bengal would be a breach of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement, whereas the Government holds that it was not open to that charge. *Junius* does not enter into the merits of this question at all, but argues elaborately that a Government has a right to cancel the Settlement. If the Government had taken that position it would have been a different thing altogether. Then the public could have clearly understood the Government. Now what does the Bengal Government say? Mr. Forsyth, Secretary to the Local Government is made to say: "the incidence of taxation under the Public Works Cess Bill is in every particular identical with the District Road Cess Act which was passed into law in 1871, and has been in force ever since. Anything, therefore, which could be urged against the principle of the present Bill, could be urged with equal force against that Act. When that Act was, after prolonged and exhaustive discussion, as to its relation to the Permanent Settlement, passed into law with the assent of the Government of India and the Home Government, the question of the right of Government to levy a tax upon immoveable property consistently with the terms of the Permanent Settlement, was practically set at rest, and it is not now competent to the Lieutenant-Governor to re-open the question." That is to say, the imposition of the new Cess is not a breach of the covenant of the Permanent Settlement. Again: "the principle of the Permanent Settlement was that, while no increase could be made in the amount of land revenue assessed upon landholders in consequence of the improvement of their respective estates, and while any rate or cess falling upon the landholders exclusively and assessed upon the recorded revenues made payable on such estates at the time of the Permanent Settlement would amount to a breach of covenant, there was nothing whatever, either in the terms or the spirit of that covenant, which exempted them from liability to rates imposed upon immoveable property generally, or from any rate, tax, or cess "levied irrespective of the increased value or produce of land, and with no view to a re-adjustment of the proportions in which the produce of the soil is divided between the state and the owners of land holding under it." This principle has been strictly adhered to in the present Bill. "Hence," says the local Government, "the charge of breach of faith has no foundation." Whether this is so or not is a matter of opinion, but *Junius* does not argue that question, but fences outside it. The Government is at least honest in this—it does not repudiate the bond, it simply gives a reading of it, which we, in common with many eminent authorities, hold is not consistent with its terms. Of course there is room for difference of opinion on this point, though to our mind the point is as clear as the noon-day sun. But *Junius* denies that the Permanent Settlement is a covenant. He admits that Sir Fitz-James Stephen, from his seat of Law Member in the Vice-regal Council, has treated it as a covenant. Perhaps he is aware that the Secretary of State, (no less a personage than the Duke of Argyll, the author of the Reign of Law) calls it in his famous despatch a "covenant," "promise," "pledge," and the like, that the members of the Indian Council who assented to and dissented from the despatch regarded it in that light, that the Government of India has over and over recognized it as such, that the Bengal Government has done the same in the present controversy, and when there is such an array of authorities, the highest on Indian questions, it is quite immaterial, what *Junius*, whoever he may be, may think of the character of the Permanent Settlement. If the Settlement be then a "covenant," the whole *of the writer's reasoning, which we admit* he supports with much learning, falls to the ground. Whatever construction the Government may put upon the terms of the Permanent Settlement, it is clear that it is not prepared to confess that it would break the plighted faith of the Crown and Parliament. So far the Government is consistent. The only question for the lawyers and jurists is therefore to decide whether the imposition of the Public Works Cess upon the permanently settled estates is or is not a breach of faith. *Junius* mentions several cases in which the Government has not scrupulously respected its provision; we do not know how the Government will like this statement of its advocate; but surely the writer knows well that two blacks cannot make one white. Supposing for argument's sake that the Government has broken other pledges—and this the writer says in the teeth of Lord Lytton's declaration at Delhi—that His Excellency represents a sovereign whose word has never been broken—is that a reason or a justification for a fresh infraction of a solemn pledge? This is the real point at issue, but *Junius* steers clear of it altogether, and seeks to divert attention by raising points, which have nothing to do with the main question.

The writer lays much stress upon the fact that the British Indian and other Governments have repealed laws, which were in the nature of promise, on the principle that one Government cannot bind another. We are not aware that the British Government has done so. It is true that it has prohibited the Suttee and infanticide, and permitted the remarriage of Hindu widows, notwithstanding the promise of religious neutrality. But they have done so in the interests of humanity and morality. The interests of humanity and morality are supreme, and must give place to all other considerations. Besides, in passing these laws the Government was supported by advanced and enlightened opinion. Further, the promise in question was not in the nature of a "covenant" such as the Permanent Settlement is. Such being the case, there is no analogy between the two. As for the Acts of Parliament withdrawing particular privileges from particular classes, it need be borne in mind that the administration of India has no similitude to that of England. India is governed despotically by a foreign nation, whereas England is governed by the people of that country in Parliament assembled. The laws passed by Parliament are the expression of the will of the nation, and surely the nation has every right to change its laws and contracts at any time and in any way it likes. It is the nation, which will suffer from such acts of abrogation, and if the nation consents, who is to complain? It is true that there may still be a dissenting minority, but this minority must yield in a country which is governed by the majority of the people. But what

is the position of India? It is, as we have said above, governed despotically by a foreign nation, the people have no voice in the Government, and the laws are passed without their consent. If a covenant made by a previous Government be abrogated by a subsequent Government, it cannot be said that the abrogation is carried with the consent of the people. Hence it was, we presume, argued by Sir Fitzjames Stephen, that the Permanent Settlement, could not be cancelled without the consent of the people. This opinion, says *Junius*, "is surprising when coming from one, who has the reputation of a sound lawyer, but it is clear that even he has confounded right with expediency." Yes, Sir Fitzjames is a sound lawyer, but not for the present purpose, simply because it does not suit the writer to accept his opinion upon it. *Junius* does not look at the important moral question involved in his arguments. When the Government is a Government of the nation, the abrogation of a promise does not involve the moral question, for then, as we have remarked above, it is done with the consent of the nation. But this consent is wanting in the acts of the Indian legislature, and here, therefore, the moral question cannot be avoided. The writer says that *jagirs* may be revoked if the Government wishes it. Now suppose the Government of India takes *Junius'* advice, and goes on repudiating all contracts and pledges, what a position it would occupy? Would anybody repose faith in its words? Lord Lytton acted the part of a true statesman, when he opened the Delhi address with the now famous declaration, that he represented a sovereign whose word was never broken. The greatest strength of the British Government in India is the sanctity of its own words. Once the faith in its words is shaken, what will be left to it? It may govern the country by brute force, but if it had hitherto relied upon brute force alone, surely it would not have received the willing allegiance of the people. The writer says that the zemindars have not done their duties, and therefore do not deserve any consideration. This argument is beside the question, for if they do not perform their duties, the legislature can always compel them to do so, and whenever necessary it has not refrained from exercising its power. The writer says that there was no consideration paid for the contract of the Permanent Settlement. The consideration, we submit, was the punctual payment of the revenue fixed, which was not regularly collected before. Then he questions the proprietory right of the zemindars. We hope the series of articles which we have lately given, headed "Property in Land," will satisfy him in this point. He however feels some qualms of conscience. He says:

"The present Government, then, has a full right to cancel the Permanent Settlement; but, in doing so, it would be well to avoid any shock to security by making the Act come into force at a subsequent date, and by giving compensation. Until early in the present century, England had guaranteed the rights of the slaveholders; several of our statutes gave distinct sanction to slavery; but the Imperial Parliament put an end to the system by an Act passed in 1833 (3 and 4 Vict. IV; c. 73) But it was thought advisable to award the slave proprietors the sum of twenty millions sterling as compensation, and also to interpose a certain period of probation, during which the slaves should be considered as apprentices."

Are the zemindars worse than the slaveholders?

THE BENGAL CIVILIANS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

OF the many domestic questions, which engage Lord Lytton's attention, we hope the grievances of the Bengal Civilians will receive due consideration. We do not allude to their grievances about promotion. Upon the whole they are better off in that respect, than their brethren in the North West Provinces. We allude to a matter of much greater importance to the country —we mean the studious exclusion of the Bengal Civilians from the Supreme Council and the Indian Secretariats. Of seven members of the Council three are military gentlemen, that is to say, the Commander-in-Chief, the Military Member, and the Minister of Works, who is an Engineer, one Barrister-at-law, one Madras Civilian, and two North West Civilians. There is not a single Bengal Civilian proper in the Council. Now Bengal is considered the most important division of the empire, whether in point of area, revenue, population, intelligence or public spirit, and yet there has not been a single representative of Bengal in the Supreme Council This is not the case at the present time, but since the promotion of Sir William Grey to the Lieutenant Governorship of Bengal. About three years ago Mr. Eden officated for six months for Sir Edward Bayley, but there has not been a single Bengal Civilian on the Executive Council for the last ten years. In the Secretariats it has been the same. Except Mr. Chapman, the Financial Secretary, and Mr. Plowden, Under-Secretary to the Foreign Department, there is not another Bengal Civilian in the Indian Secretariats. All the other Chief Secretaries and Under-Secretaries belong either to the North West Provinces or the Punjab. The Foreign Secretary is a Punjab Civilian, and the Home and Agricultural Secretaries are North West Civilians. The additional Agricultural Secretary is a Bombay Civilian. All other Under-Secretaries also belong either to the North West Provinces or the Punjab. Thus Bengal is likewise tabooed in the Secretariats. The result is that His Excellency the Viceroy is surrounded on all sides by men, who have, with rare exceptions, no connection with Bengal Proper. Now, the Viceroy is new to the country; he has no local knowledge or experience; (we do not allude to any particular Governor General,) he perhaps studied little about India, and cared to know less about it; suddenly he finds himself in a most responsible position, and he must look to his Councillors and Secretaries for information and advice. And when he has one class of officers, drawn from a particular part of India, by no means advanced in opinion, to advise him, he naturally imbibes their opinions, sentiments and feelings. He may be a most independent-minded and far-seeing man, most anxious to steer clear of the Scylla and Charybdis of Indian official opinion, but he is tied and tied hand and foot. If he has only one stream of opinion constantly flowing in upon him, what can he do but bathe in it and drink of it? Just consider how he is situated when he first arrives in the country. He generally arrives in the month of March, April, or May at the latest, and before he has time to make acquaintances, he is packed off to Simla. In Calcutta he is surrounded by the North West Civilians as we have shewn above, though there is some opportunity for him, while there, to know some of the Bengal Civilians, but even then he meets them at the social board. The only Bengal Civilian with whom he comes into contact officially is the Lieutenant Governor, but for the last six years there was no Bengal Civilian at the head of the Bengal Government. But with the Lieutenant Governor the Viceroy's communications relate to Bengal affairs only; on general questions it is not to be expected that His Honor would be consulted. At Simla the Viceroy generally spends the greater part of his first year, from eight to nine months, and who are about him? The same North West and Punjab Civilians. Now it is notorious that the Civilians of North India, though possessed of ability and energy, have been brought up in a school, which has little in common with the progressive ideas of the governing class in Bengal or Bombay. They have been taught by the traditions of the administration of their provinces, that the dead-level system is the best form of revenue settlement, that vigour beyond the law is essential to administrative and political success in India, that the liberty of the subject is a phantom, that high English education for the people is a mistake, that native opinion is a myth, that the people are mere children and that the Government should think for them, that the press, particularly the native press, is a danger, that the opening of the Civil Service to the natives would be a death-knell to British power in Asia, that the representation of the leaders of native society in municipal and other local councils is a mockery, that India has been won by the force of arms and must be kept by it. We do not say that all Civilians of North India participate in these opinions; there are certainly enlightened and liberal men among them, but the great majority of them, we fear, are narrow-minded and arbitrary. It is by men of this school, for the most part, the Viceroy is surrounded from the time he lands in India, and it may be easily imagined whether their daily contact is calculated to give him a just estimate of the advanced ideas of progressive Bengal. Formerly Bengal had considerable influence in the Supreme Council, and what was the result? The laws were then conceived in a much more liberal spirit than now; the administration was much more tolerant and conciliatory; there was much greater sympathy between the rulers and the ruled. If Bengal has taken the lead in native opinion; if it is more advanced than the other provinces in Western India in culture and training; if it shows solid progress in arts and civilization, it is because the mind of the Governor General, in times past, was acted upon by the progressive ideas of the governing class in Bengal. Now Bengal is simply laughed at by the North West Civilians. They have very little sympathy with the broad views aad generous sympathies of their brethren of Bengal. We may say that they look down upon Bengal. All that exists in Northern India is good, and ought to be extended to other parts of the empire.

How long, we ask, is this state of things to continue? The North India leaven commenced at the time of Lord Lawrence, whilst Governor General, and though there was some sign of a reaction in the days of Lord Northbrook, it is going off. May we venture to express a hope that Lord Lytton takes a broader view of things? His Lordship is probably not aware that the repressive policy of the Government of India has had a sadly depressing effect upon the Bengal Civilians. They have no prospect of promotion to the Government of India. They have no hope of obtaining a voice in the highest council of the State. They languish and go home with broken health and heart like Mr. Schalch. We hope there will be a few opportunities at no distant period for Lord Lytton to take back Bengal into confidence. In about a year Sir Edward Bayley's time of office will be over, and speculation is rife as to his successor. Mr. R. B. Chapman, who has been Financial Secretary for the last ten years, has, we believe, the best claim, and next to him is Mr. Rivers Thompson, Chief Commissioner of British Burma. It is said that the Finance Ministership is reserved for Mr. Chapman, but there is no chance of a vacancy in that office immediately, and it would be a cruel injustice to him if he were shut out from the Council on that plea. When the Financial member retires, he may be appointed to his place, and in that Bengal will have a worthy representative in Mr. Rivers Thompson. Then again if Mr. Chapman be shoved up, who will take his place in the Financial Secretariat? It is said that the choice lies between Mr. Monteith and Mr. Batten. Mr. Monteith is decidedly an able man, but is there no Bengal Civilian fit to take his place? We will make no invidious distinction, and name names; but we submit that there are at least half-a-dozen Bengal Civilians who would each make a good Financial Secretary. Then why should not the Bengal element be introduced in a fair proportion in the other Secretariats? The subject is of vital importance not to Bengal only but to the country at large; for broad and advanced ideas in the Council of the Empire are of national importance, and we beseech Lord Lytton to give due attention to it.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

COMPLAINT is justly rife against the East India Railway Company for its inability to carry goods with sufficient speed. A passenger proceeding from Howrah to Umballa, or back, sees piles of goods in sheds, where there are sheds, or on the open ground, and every day seems to add to their bulk. No wonder that trade is impeded and merchants complain. The Railway officers actually refuse to receive the goods, but the mahajuns deposit the goods at their own risk. Goods to the value of several lacs of rupees were damaged last month owing to the rains; this loss is of course sustained by the merchants themselves, as they deposited the goods at their own risk. But primarily the Railway Company are to blame. They have established a system of communication, which, while stimulating internal trade, has, to a great extent superseded river routes. Now, having tempted the people, as it were, to their line, it will not do to say, as they are practically saying, that their line

is blocked, and cannot carry all the traffic. The Company ought to have foreseen the pressure upon their carrying power. The block in the goods traffic on the East Indian Railway is not new. It has been going on for some time past, though it has less the magnitude of a scandal. It is said that the rolling stock of the Company is not sufficient, if so, they ought to have foreseen the contingency which has now arisen. We have been hearing for sometime past that additional rolling stock has been ordered, and we believe some new wagons have been constructed, but the supply is not adequate to the demand. A correspondent of the *Englishman* says: "There is a remedy close at hand, which, if achievable, would remove the delay at once. The Calcutta and South-Eastern State Railway, has a great many wagons standing unemployed at Sealdah. Could the Agent of the E. I. Railway not arrange with the Government of India for the loan of a couple of hundred goods wagons to expedite the despatch of produce from up-couutry? The traffic on the C. and S. E. Railway is very insignificant, and the goods wagons are never regularly employed, whilst an increase of, say, two hundred wagons to the E. I. Railway stock would admit of the Company's despatching daily about one thousand and five hundred tons more than heretofore." This is a good suggestion, and we hope it will be acted upon. But our contemporary seems to doubt that the want of sufficient rolling stock is the chief cause of delay. He asks, what if the Railway has already enough rolling stock to bring down each day twice as much grain as the Howrah station can accommodate, and quite as much as the consignees could possibly remove? He continues, "any one visiting the Howrah station can see for himself that every inch of the present accommodation is regularly filled up as it becomes empty, and more goods cannot be brought into the station without interferring with the passenger and mail traffic, which cannont be allowed." The terminus at Howrah, in fact, gives us a repetition of what has happened at nearly all the original termini of the great lines of railway in London. The railway traffic has devoloped far beyond the most sanguine estimate of the architects of the Howrah station, and increased accommodation has become imperative. That this would probably be the case has frequently been pointed out to the company by its own officers. So long ago as 1860, one of them wrote to the Board of Agency:—"If something is not decided on, and a fixed plan kept in view for increasing the station accommodation as the line and the traffic develope, we shall go on working and increasing as a temporary measure, till the whole place has to be remodelled and rebuilt at an enormous cost to the company." These predictions have been verified to the letter. There is much truth in our contemporary's remarks, but if want of accommodation be the real cause of the delay complained, surely that can be remedied by the erection of temporary sheds. But if the want of wagons has led to the block, that is an evil which cannot be easily remedied, unless the Company takes the point of the *Englishman's* correspondent, and borrows wagons from companies. At the same time we agree with our contemporary that the accommodation for goods at the Howrah terminus ought to be extended. Our contemporary says: "What strikes us as one of the first necessities to improve the present accommodation is a more complete separation of the passenger and goods traffic, and all offices connected therewith. Why, for instance, should not the present passenger station be entirely left for the goods traffic, and a new passenger station be erected on the north side of the road, between the present station and the foot of the Hughli bridge, on the land at present used as a storeyard? The accommodation for goods in the present station would be nearly doubled by such an arrangement, and the facilities for the delivery and removal of goods materially increased." But the company ought not to stop here. They ought to provide sufficient accommodation for goods at the road-side stations. There is not a station up the line, which is not overstocked with goods, which again are not exposed to sun and rain. It is true that if the goods be carried rapidly enough, there will not be such an accumulation of goods as is now observab le. But however rapid the transport, there is sure to be some accumulation, and the present acco mmodation is quite insufficient. This is a matter of pressing importance and ought to be immediate ly attended to.

CONVENTIONAL PROPRIETY.

IN THE abstract, propriety, we all know, is that condition in which no repulsive feeling is produced; and, had all mankind been in the same mental condition, the standard of propriety would have been the same everywhere. But circumstanced as we are, living in different climates, influenced by different social conditions, and guided by antagonistic religious creeds, it is impossible for any two nations to take the same view of what is proper and what not. Confining our opinions to trifles—to social etiquette and customs apart from abstract goodness or morality,—what native in India would think that a gentleman appearing at a dinner table without his neck-cloth would commit a gross breach of conventional propriety? The redoubtable Mrs. Hominy of Yankee-land, though thoroughly masculine in her character, and accustomed to rough it in a variety of ways, was put to the blush when Martin Chuzzlewit, in his insular simplicity, said that a certain fact was open to the "naked eye." The nudity even of the eye was too horrifying to be tolerated. It is no wonder that ladies of her class should have given rise to the rumour that they put on breeches to the legs of their dinner table. Passing from Yankee-land to Otaheitie, we remember reading somewhere that when Commodore Lambert was cruising about in its neighbourhood, some of his sailors got down for a bath, close by one of the small islands of the group. The natives of the place had assembled on the beach in great numbers to see the ship and the white men. They were conspicuous by their utter disregard of everything sartorial, and the smallest bits of cloth round their loins did duty for the traditional fig-leaf. But when they beheld the sailors completely stripped of all clothing, as they were about to plunge into the water, they were so shocked by the sight that they ran away from the shore. Their idea of propriety could not for a moment tolerate the absolute dishabille. We had ourselves occasion once to receive two Mormon priests, and when they, after a bath, but before the toils of dressing, asked us to accompany them in a walk round the tank to pluck leechees, we felt, notwithstanding some familiarity with Sannyasis, the absence of the fig leaf too much for us. Indian women afford some curious illustrations on this subject. No respectable Hindoo lady could, for a moment, think of taking off the veil from her head in the presence of a male relative and even in that of her own mother-in-law, and yet she would not hesitate to walk into the river with nothing better on her person than the thinnest muslin which the looms of Santipore or Dacca can produce. She feels not the least impropriety in the one case, and looks upon neglect of the other as amounting to the greatest breach of decorum. Our ladies of the Dacca muslin were however, once put to the shade by a Marchioness at a fancy ball at the Tuilleries where she appeared as Aurora in a tiara of brilliants and a loose gauze cover thrown over her person. The reporter, we believe, forgot to add that there were flesh-colored tights inside the gauze. The same thing may be said of language. Some words are held to be positively obscene, while others, meaning identically the same thing, are unobjectionable and appropriate. In matters of conventional morality the same thing happens in a variety of ways. Accustomed as our countrymen are to permit professional dancing women to dance and sing in their houses on festive occasions, they cannot perceive anything wrong or improper in the permission; and as long as human society lasts under the kind of civilization which obtains even amongst the most educated classes, it is impossible to keep the 'soiled doves' of the community entirely out of sight. Under some circumstance or other they must be tolerated. But at the same time we cannot find fault with those who object to the sight of dancing girls. Englishmen do display a high feeling of rectitude when they object to attend a *nautch*, and look down upon those who witness *nautches*. But do they look upon *nautches* with horror from any abstract feeling of morality, or only because it is foreign to them? Had the former been the case, ballet girls would not have met with the encouragement in their country, which they do, nor admitted to private drawing-rooms to sing. Nor is the tolerance limited to professional *danseuses*. Circumstances often come to light which cannot but shock the feelings of the people of this country as displaying the highest amount of impropriety. What can they, for instance, think of Anglo-Indian newspapers paying for correspondence from Europe to chronicle the doings and movements of *la belle* Cora and her naughty sisterhood, for the edification and delectation of ladies and gentlemen in this country! Young men will be young men, and their foibles cannot be put down;—they must have their run, and as long as they do so, the youthful nobility and gentry of every country will have their Coras. They are unavoidable evils, the sloughs and gangrenes of modern civilization, which no amount of cautery or amputation can help us to get rid of. But we fail to conceive how it is that men who are shocked at the mere mention of a *nautch*, should take a delight in reading in their morning papers the chronicles of such offensive creatures,—the sale of their house property, the exquisite finish of their carriages, their taste for jewellery, and the readiness with which they cast them into the fire when the brilliants are found to have flaws in them—and season their breakfasts with the same. We remember reading of a Princess in France who allowed Anonyma to have access to Her Royal Highness's ward-robes in order that she might return the visit and satisfy her curiosity about the value and make of the fallen one's jewels and gowns. The experiment brought her out second best. In either case the visit was to the dressing room and not to the owner of it. It was however, the result simply of individual caprice; but as regards Indian newspaper readers the matter concerns a whole community. As far as we are aware, the newspapers which import such news the most, are not kept away from the hands of young wives and daughters. Herein, however, we err, perhapsvery much in the same way as the Otaheitians who ran away from the bathing sailors of Commodore Lambert, or Mrs. Hominy whom Chuzzlewit offended. It is all due to our conventional ideas of propriety, and they being different, we cannot always look at the shield from the same side. The fault obviously lies in the refractory medium through which we look at it, and not in the subject itself.

THE PALL MALL GAZETTE ON THE FULLER CASE.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* has published a strange article on Lord Salisbury's despatch on the Fuller case. As regards the merits of that case the writer seems to be at one with the Government of India. He admits that "the sentence passed by Mr. Leeds upon Mr. Fuller was undoubtedly inadequate. We regret his error of judgment in not having inflicted a severer punishment; and we regret, too, that the High Court did not see its way to providing a remedy for this partial failure of justice." But the *Gazette* feels alarmed at the farther development of the question, which has sprung out of this wretched case. He says: "If Lord Salisbury's third proposition is to be admitted—if it be true that the Executive may interfere even with the "judicial functions" of the Indian judges—may constitute itself that is to say, a supreme court of appeal to review and reverse their decisions—then *cadit quæstio.*" He continues: "Lord Salisbury contends, indeed, that it is not practically put in issue in the present case, because the Viceroy was then dealing with "purely executive functions" of the High Court which functions it is "his especial province to control." But how can a decision of the High Court to the effect that the judgment of a subordinate tribunal did not call for their interference, be described as the discharge of an executive function? or if so, what is a judicial function? The High Court considered the evidence against Mr. Fuller and the sentence passed upon him by Mr. Leeds, and though criticising its adequacy, just as our judges criticise the damages assessed by a jury, refused, just as our judges

often do, to disturb the decision. From first to last this seems to us to have been plainly a judicial act. To describe it as "executive" appears to be not only an abuse of language but an abuse against which one of Lord Salisbury's own illustrations in the despatch is the most emphatic protest." The *Gazette* seems to labour under strange hallucinations. If the writer had carefully read the papers in this case, he would have found that the High Court did not pass a judicial decision, but simply reported its opinion in its ministerial capacity upon a reference from the Executive Government. Accordingly Lord Lytton is perfectly justified in criticising that opinion. If the High Court had recorded a judicial decision and if Lord Lytton had reversed that decision or had condemned the court for it, His Lordship's action would certainly have been open to impeachment. But this was what His Lordship did not do—he did not sit in judgment upon the judicial decision of the High Court, he simply reviewed the opinion which the High Court gave in its administrative capacity. The High Court should not for the sake of its own dignity have given its opinion extra-judicially; this the Chief Justice now regrets; but having done so, it has no right to complain. The *Gazette* then remarks that the distinction which Lord Salisbury draws between Subordinate Courts in India and stipendiary and unpaid Magistrates in England by English analogy is fatal to the position which he has assumed. Lord Salisbury says. "Unpaid magistrates who misconduct themselves are reproved, or if need be, removed by the Lord Chancellor. In the case of stipendiary magistrates a similar duty devolves upon the Home Secretary." Again, "the review of judicial decisions of subordinate tribunals belongs of course to superior courts; but the action by which they are submitted to the consideration of a superior court, so far as it is exercised by any public authority at all, is initiated by the Attorney-General or at the instance of an executive department." The *Pall Mall* writer remarks: "The executive function, it is here plainly admitted, is limited to the duty of reproving or punishing magistrates for "misconduct." Is Mr. Leeds's mistake a case of "misconduct"? If so, the definition of the word has been very dangerously enlarged; but, if not, then the function of the High Court was not "executive" in their dealing with this case, and consequently Lord Lytton's jurisdiction never arose. It never could arise except in such a case as that of the High Court refusing to remove a magistrate for misconduct—as for instance, corruption—where of course the Viceroy, in virtue of his "special province to control the exercise of the executive functions" of the court, might himself intervene and remove the offender." Here we entirely concur. It is, we admit, no part of the functions of the Executive Government to criticise judicial decisions whether passed by subordinate or superior Courts; such decisions ought to be left for reversal to the regular tribunals of the country; for the Executive Government to sit in judgment upon such decisions would be to exercise a power which ought not to be vested in it, and which could not be conducive to the best interests of justice. Unfortunately, our Government but too frequently runs in the opposite direction. It habitually comments on decisions passed by inferior magistrates and judges, and thus circumscribes not a little the independence of the bench which is essential to the ends of justice. The High Court, strictly speaking, is the minister of justice in this country, and it is within its legitimate province to regulate the administration of justice. The Government has certainly a right to interfere whenever there has been a gross miscarriage of justice, but in that case it ought to act through the High Court. The *Gazette* itself admits that the Government has a right to control the executive functions of the High Court but says: "it is surely a long step from this to hold that their judicial functions are to be controlled—their decisions, that is to say, reviewed and reversed—by the Governor General in Council." Now we repeat that this the Indian Government does not do and did not do in the case under notice. Lord Salisbury says, "in withholding from the Indian judges the independence of the executive which had been on a solemn occasion formally conferred on the English judges, Parliament must be taken to have fully intended the consequences of the important distinction which it was sanctioning." The *Pall Mall* writer remarks: "Yes, but is an appellate jurisdiction of the Viceroy among these consequences? Surely we give enough effect to the words "during her Majesty's pleasure" if we suppose the Legislature to have meant that the Indian judges were to be removeable directly by the Crown, instead of being like the English judges, removeable only upon address by both Houses of Parliament. Does, then, the power of removal carry with it the right of controlling the judicial function? Lord Salisbury, as we gather, says yes; because "the right to dismiss any person holding an office carries necessarily with it a right to indicate the conduct which, if persisted in, may incur dismissal." Are we to understand, then, that judges, who "persisted in" pronouncing judgments, conscientious indeed and uncorrupt, but contrary to the views of the Viceroy, would "incur dismissal?" Lord Salisbury can scarcely mean this; but unless he is prepared to go so far, the right of removal does not "necessarily carry with it" the right to control judicial functions in the sense of reviewing judicial decisions." The writer thus argues in a circle. He assumes throughout that Lord Lytton has reversed the judicial decision of the High Court and thereby assailed the independence of the bench. We repeat again that he has not done so. What the writer, however, says about the meaning of the phrase that the Indian judges hold office "during Her Majesty's pleasure" has our hearty concurrence. He says:

> "What it does necessarily carry with it is merely the right to reprove and warn for misconduct not gross enough to be punished by instant dismissal, but such as if persisted in would entail that punishment. This is all that seems to us to be of necessity implied in the condition of tenure "during Her Majesty's pleasure," as attaching to the office of the Indian judges—namely, liability to removal for gross misconduct by the direct action of the Crown, and consequent liability to censure for minor acts of misconduct, among which we cannot consent to include the delivery of decisions dissented from by the Viceroy. Lord Salisbury's more stringent construction of the terms of Indian judicial appointments may be the right one; but all we can say is that the single argument on which he rests it carries no conviction to our mind. The theory to which he stands committed seems to us to be most disputable in itself; and we can only regret, therefore, that, considering the extreme gravity of its involved consequences, it has been put forth. Even if it be the true one, we are inclined, with Sir Erskine Perry, to "doubt greatly the expediency of reminding the judges of India who are claiming immunity from Government interference, that they hold their offices by the tenure which produced the most shameful subserviency to the Government on the part of judges that is recorded in history." Nor, supposing Lord Salisbury's theory to be sound, are we at all reassured by his reminder to Lord Lytton that "any executive action trenching on the independence of judges in the exercise of their purely judicial functions could only be justified by reasons of extreme necessity." For we have been unable, even by the most vigorous exercise of the imagination, to form an abstract conception of any of these mysterious "reasons of extreme necessity," or to suppose any concrete case in which such interference could be other than profoundly mischievous."

We are however inclined to think that no practical mischief need be apprehended from the despatches of Lord Salisbury on this point. No Governor General will be so rash as to attack the independence of the Judges of the High Court.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1876.

THE Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town and its Suburbs for the year 1876 is peculiarly devoid of interest. It is only a bare record of the number of arrests made, and the number of convictions obtained; the classification of offences, cognizable, non-cognizable, serious, minor and miscellaneous. The total number of cases during the year was 35,733 against 37,763 in the preceding year; the decrease being attributed, in a great measure, to the falling off in the number of conservancy prosecutions in the Suburbs. Out of 35,368 persons arrested 25,861 were convicted in 1876, against 22,792 out of 36,930 in 1875. The convictions for offences under the Penal Code show that in the Town there is one criminal in every 126 persons and in the Suburbs one in 170. In London the proportion, we think is, 1 to 51 or three times more unfavorable. The proportion of Mussulman criminals to population is more than double that of the Hindoos in Calcutta. It would be interesting to know whether this proportion between Hindoo and Mussulman criminals was maintained in past years, as it would then satisfy the Government that, as regards crime, the Hindoo is more inoffensive than the Mahomedan, a fact, however, which few will dispute. Offences against property fell from 2,808 in 1875 to 2,565 in 1876, and the value of property stolen from Rs. 164,646 to Rs. 105,567. His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, however, remarks that the falling off in the value of property stolen cannot be taken as a necessarily favorable symptom,—the statistics of property stolen and recovered being often violently disturbed by some exceptional circumstance entirely beyond the control of the Police. There is an increase in the number of serious offences in 1876 and a decrease in the number of minor offences. Four murders were committed, two by drunken sailors and two by natives, and five attempts at murder were made. The two sailors were acquitted for want of satisfactory evidence. Of the two natives, one was removed to the Lunatic Asylum, he having shown signs of insanity and the other suffered the extreme penalty of the law. In the case in which Cook was tried for culpable homicide, and in which he admitted having assaulted the deceased (a native boatman) with his fist, the Lieutenant Governor remarks that there was an apparent failure of justice, and desires to be informed whether any steps were taken to punish Cook. There were 102 cases of burglary. Of these 60 occurred at night and were successful. Out of 1,961 cases, 821 were successfully enquired into.

The Commissioner of Police accounts for the decrease in the number of arrests by stating that the result is due to a change of system that was introduced in June last, by the withdrawal of Magisterial powers from the Deputy Commissioner of Police, under Act IV. of 1866, which obliges him to send up for trial *all* persons arrested within the Town. The Lieutenant Governor, while expressing his satisfaction that the arrests during 1876 have not been so indiscriminate as last year, remarks that he is unable to follow Mr. Metcalfe's argument on this point. He thinks that apparently the withdrawal of magisterial powers from the Deputy Commissioner has led to the Police being more careful in their arrests, since now all people arrested have to be brought before a Magistrate; all such persons discharged by a Magistrate will, under the existing rule, be shown as acquittals in the returns, and it is presumably the dread of this which has led to the Police being instructed "not to arrest without a reasonable prospect of securing a conviction." Mr. Metcalfe, it appears, regrets this restriction. To the Lieutenant-Governor, on the other hand, some restriction seems obviously required, and though the motive which has led to this increased caution on the part of the Police is not one which can be highly commended, he trusts that cautious action in this direction will be strictly maintained. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor observes that the probability of a conviction is a very unsafe guide for a police officer in judging of the propriety of an arrest, especially when his suspicions are first aroused. A police officer should arrest no one capriciously, hastily, or without reasonable grounds; but he must be singularly wanting in a sense of what the public have a right to expect from him if he omits to arrest a man against whom he has fair proof, or strong suspicion, simply because he is afraid that the judicial officer will acquit him. All that the Government expect is that the Commissioner will check the action of the Police in the exercise of the discretion allowed them, not by any hard-and-fast rule, but by taking proper notice of any instances of want of judgment or arbitrary conduct. But no Police can be efficient if they are for ever haunted by the fear of showing too many acquittals.

Under the head "Processions" we find that 866 licenses for processions with music were issued in 1876; the fees amounted to Rs. 3,351. Some hardship is felt by the native community with respect to the rules which regulate the grant of licenses for processions. We have been informed that these licenses are issued in an arbitrary manner, and unless the application for license be presented to the Deputy Commissioner when his temper is unruffled, there is every chance of its being rejected. Some consideration and

enien cy ought to be shown to the native public n this matter, especially when applications are made for processions within the limits of the native town.

The *chef d'œuvre* of the Calcutta Police was a Register of Previous Convictions. This important work was, in past years, very carelessly performed, till Mr. Lambert threw his heart into it, and with his characteristic energy and determination completed a task which has, in a great measure, facilitated the performance of the duties of the detective police. The Register, as now recast and brought up to hand, gives detailed information regarding all the bad and suspected characters in the Town, and police officers now fully see the importance and utility of the book.

In concluding his Report the Commissioner of Police recommends the extension of his jurisdiction to both sides of the river, as the Hooghly Bridge now enables the bad characters of Calcutta to make raids with greater rapidity on the western side, and *vice versa*. The Lieutenant Governor remarks that this question is still in abeyance, and that he will be ready to consider any recommendations which further experience may suggest to Mr. Metcalfe.

Regarding the employment of a greater number of intelligent and educated Bengalees in the Calcutta Police, His Honor observes that the proportion of Bengalees to up-country men in the force is 311 to 1,867. He remarks that "it is undoubted that Bengalees are not generally well suited for duties of watch and ward, and particularly for night patrol. But he must observe that watch and ward is not all that police officers have to look to, and that no civil police can be efficient if most of the men are only fit for duty as sentries; efforts should, therefore, be made to induce Bengalees, who are essential for detective purposes, to join the force. It is out of the question to expect men from the Upper Provinces to be of any real use in detecting crime among a Bengalee population. The arguments adduced against the enlistment of Bengalees as constables do not hold against their appointment to the higher grades. It appears that the numbers of Bengalees and up-country native officers were nearly the same on the 31st December 1876 as on the same date in 1875. The last report showed only 39 of the latter, but it has been ascertained that 20 were then on special duty in connection with the Prince of Wales's visit, and were consequently not shown in the return. The Lieutenant-Governor must insist upon the employment of a greater number of intelligent and educated Bengalees in the Calcutta Police." One of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries has taken exception to this remark on the ground of Bengalees not having the necessary energy and perseverance for Police work. The experience of the Calcutta Police has, however, entirely belied the theory: the defaulter's list does not at all show that Bengalee officers have hitherto been more wanting in capacity than their European and up-country colleagues. They labor under great disadvantages; the eye of every European Inspector is on them, and, like the native guards in railway trains, they are subjected to much petty annoyance and brow-beating. Sympathy they rarely find anywhere; they nevertheless perform their allotted duties with energy, zeal and application, and rarely give cause for complaint. Their chief merit lies in their detective capacity, and amidst a weak population, where open violence is rare, it is of the utmost importance. No foreigner can compete with them in that respect, and on that ground we heartily subscribe to the opinion of His Honor.

THE BOMBAY REVENUE JURISDICTION BILL.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE has done a public service by publishing the despatch of the Secretary of State for India regarding the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. This document ought to have been published in the *Gazette of India* before the introduction of the amending Bill. It is important in more than one respect. Firstly, it conveys the opinion of the Secretary of State that the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts over revenue cases in the old provinces of Bombay should be restored. The Noble Marquis thus addresses the Governor General in Council on this point. "Your Excellency, in your letter of the 5th of June, insists on the circumstance that the powers conferred on the revenue officers by this Bill are inferior to those which are possessed by them in all other parts of India. I am not insensible to the importance of this observation. But the fact that a different law has prevailed for half a century in the old provinces of Bombay cannot be left out of sight. A law which has worked well elsewhere may, nevertheless, be distasteful to a population to whom it is new, and whose pecuniary rights it deprives of a protection to which they have been habituated, even though that kind of protection may not in reality be necessary. The position also of some portions, at least of the territory comprised within these provinces, with respect to these questions is peculiar. Owing to the circumstances of their previous history, obscure and disputed claims to exemption from land revenue or from an enhanced assessment, professing to rest on ancient grants, are commoner here than in other parts of India. His Lordship adds:

"If the enactment to which I have referred constituted the entire measure, I should have felt that I had no choice but to recommend the disallowance of it. But it contains valuable provisions as to the control of the Civil Courts over the ordinary operations of assessment, which, in the present doubtful state of the law, have become absolutely necessary. A disallowance of the measure would arrest this legislation and suspend it, perhaps for several years.

I prefer to request your Excellency to reconsider the first article of sub-section (a) and the first two articles of sub-section (f) of Section 4, for the purpose, so far as the old provinces are concerned, of giving back to the Civil Courts whatever jurisdiction these articles have taken away. When this amendment shall have been effected, the Act will be left to its operation.

The same end might undoubtedly in practice be attained by requesting the Government of Bombay, under Section 12, to remit all such questions to the High Court. I propose indeed, in order to prevent the apprehension of any immediate miscarriage of justice, to instruct the Government of Bombay in that sense. Such an arrangement will give to your Legislative Council full time to consider the modification of the Act which I propose. But permanently to suspend the operation of a portion of a Legislative act by a standing instruction to an executive Government would be an unusual course, and would tend unnecessarily to keep alive an irritating controversy."

Thus justice has been done to the people of the old provinces of Bombay.

In the second place, the Secretary of State makes some important remarks on the manner in which the Bill was passed. Incidentally we learn that when the correspondence regarding this Bill was laid before the Secretary of State, all the papers on the subject were not communicated to him. Thus Lord Salisbury says, "the Bill exempts from the jurisdiction of the Courts objections to the proceedings of revenue officers, arising from the claim to hold land altogether or in part free from payments to land revenue, so far as it rests only upon grant or usage anterior to the British occupation. These questions were not touched by the original Rutnagiri case, which first gave rise to a proposal for legislation on this matter. I also gather that no allusion was made to them in the letter of the 30th January 1873, in which the Government of Bombay first proposed to limit the revenue jurisdiction of the Civil Courts, but that letter though alluded to in the papers which have been forwarded to me, is not included among them." When the Secretary of State so prominently notices this omission, it is clear that he feels that he did not receive the whole information on the subject. Now this omission could not have happened, if the practice of sending the records of all proceedings of the several administrations in India to the Home Government had not been done away with. In the days of the Court of Directors the whole record was sent, and they used to read every scrap of paper thus forwarded and to record their opinion or orders upon it. Thus justice was done by them even to the meanest subject. Cases were known in which no appeal had been made to them by the aggrieved, but on reading the papers forwarded they discovered gross injustice, and did not hesitate to issue orders reversing the decisions of the Government of India. The local Governments were necessarily more careful. It is a pity that the old system was abolished. It might be said that the business of the Indian Government has since vastly increased, that the means of rapid communication, which now exist, have multiplied correspondence, and to send all the papers of every case and matter would simply load the India Office without leading to much practical benefit. But in the days of the Court of Directors, we have referred to, the printing of official papers had not come into vogue. The Directors had to wade through volumes of manuscripts, but they did not shirk labor or trouble. Now-a-days printing has been a source of great convenience, and if the business has multiplied, the facilities for disposing of it have increased ten-fold. And yet the practice of sending the whole record has been discontinued. But this is an incidental point. We next come to the history of the Bill. The Government of Bombay had supported the first draft of the Bill taking away the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts altogether, but subsequently the apprehension with which the proposals were received by many persons of influence and authority in the Presidency of Bombay appears to have communicated to the members of that Government an unfavorable impression as to the prudence of persisting in them; and this view gained force as time went on. The Government of Bombay accordingly repeatedly urged upon the Government of India the propriety of omitting the obnoxious clauses, but, as we are aware, to no effect. As the Secretary of State puts it: "Several alterations were made, but they did not remove the objections which were felt to it in Bombay; and on the 16th of February in the present year, the Government of Bombay intimated to your Excellency's Government, in stronger language than they had used before, their wish that the Bill should not pass." The Secretary of State continues:

"The adverse judgment of this Government derived additional weight from the announcement of views, also hostile to it, which was incidentally made by the Judges of the High Court of Bombay. On the 22nd of December last, Sir M. Westropp and Mr. Justice Melvill, in giving judgment in the case of Haribhai Monbhai, of Kabilpur, took occasion to enforce in strong language, the necessity of the control of the Civil Courts over the decision of revenue officers upon disputed rights of exemption from land revenue. At the same time they recorded a distinct contradiction of an important doctrine which had been laid down by the Legal member of your Council in justification of the proposals contained in this Bill. This statement of law by the learned Judges was not necessary to the decision of the case before them, and may not therefore be held to be settled law on a future occasion. But the public expression of their opinion both against the policy of the measure and in refutation of the legal statements by which it had been upheld, at once indicated, and tended to strengthen, the disfavour with which it was regarded by many influential persons in the Presidency of Bombay.

Notwithstanding, however, the adverse views expressed by the High Court upon the 22nd of December last, and by the Government of Bombay in February, the Bill was taken up again in your Legislative Council of the 14th of March, and received the sanction of your predecessor on the 28th.

I am sensible that every allowance should be made for the difficulty in which the Government of India were left by the change which took place in the opinions of the Government of Bombay. At the same time, I concur in their belief that no precedent can be found for the enactment by the Government of India of a law intended to have only local effect, in direct opposition to the views of the Government and of the Judges of the High Court of that locality.

Greater force was given to this consideration by the fact that your Legislative Council contained, at the time this Bill took its present shape and was finally passed, only one gentleman who was in any degree acquainted with the Presidency of Bombay. This circumstance placed the Legislative Council at an obvious disadvantage in dealing with questions exclusively affecting that Presidency and rendered it clearly inexpedient, except on grounds of very special exigency, to overrule the opinions of the highest judicial and executive authorities."

The persistence with which the Government of India persevered in the Bill was simply amazing. When the Local Government was opposed to it; when the Judges of the High Court so strongly protested against it; when public opinion, both European and Native, was arraigned against it; when almost the whole Indian Press was vehement against it, it was really surprising that the Government of India, in the teeth of such strong and general opposition, passed the Bill. Lord Salisbury has done a most important service to this country by arresting the obstinate despotism of the Government of India in this instance, for we feel persuaded that the moral effect of his decision will have a much wider effect than the immediate subject of it. The Government of India will see that it cannot wantonly disregard public opinion in India without being pulled back by the Secretary of State. And here, *en passant*, we would solicit the Secretary of State to reconsider his own orders about the introduction of Bills into the Legislative Councils. The reader is aware that the Marquis of Salisbury has ruled that every Bill must be sent up to the Secretary of State.

This means a sensible diminution of the responsibility of the Indian Councils. Once the sanction of the Secretary of State is given, the Councils may well defy public opinion, for, whatever the opposition, they will feel strong in the support of the Indian Minister. Suppose this Bill had been laid before the Secretary of State in the first instance, and he had accorded his sanction to it as a matter of course, the subsequent expression of public opinion, we fear, would have availed little. When a Bill is first proposed, the official view only is put forth, but when it is published, independent opinion gathers force, and then the two sides of the question are laid bare. The Secretary of State, as an arbiter between the Indian Government and the Indian public, is then in the best position to judge and decide. It might be said that there would be nothing which would prevent the Secretary of State from altering his opinion afterwards. But human nature is human nature. Once a person gives his opinion, he is generally slow to retract it. Besides, when the Secretary of State conveys his sanction to a measure, he practically assumes the whole responsibility, and if he should afterwards repudiate, the Indian Government might well complain. It is of the utmost importance that the Secretary of State should continue to occupy the position of ultimate referee, and not commit himself at the initial stage of any proceeding.

In this despatch Lord Salisbury has distinctly defined the position of the local Governments in respect to legislation. His Lordship says that when a measure is proposed affecting a province, "it is inexpedient, except on grounds of very special exigency, to overrule the opinions of the highest judicial and executive authorities." This is as it should be. The Local Government is responsible for local affairs, and unless there be special reasons it should not be interfered with. The Government of India, as now constituted, cannot command that local knowledge, which would enable it to overrule with beneficial effect the proceedings of the Local Government. We hope the principle laid down by the Secretary of State will be strictly adhered to.

THE FAMINE IN BOMBAY.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE has assumed charge of the Bombay Government at a comparatively auspicious time. The rigour of the famine has abated, and confidence has therefore been restored to the public mind. In Bombay the famine though severe enough, was much less widespread and serious than what prevails in Madras. Then again public opinion was first roused in Bombay and the Government was therefore put on its guard. Sir Phillip Wodehouse, the late Governor, was anxious to signalise the close of his reign by vigorously acting in this crisis. He was ably seconded by the Public Works Secretary, Mr. Gerald Kennedy, to whom is justly due the credit of organising the relief machinery. The Poona Sarvajanik Subha has also performed an important function by representing the actual condition of the suffering population and urging the necessity of a liberal system of relief. In its last letter it justly gives credit to Government for the success it has achieved in the administration of relief. It says: "The system which prevails in the organization set up by Government to help the distressed people, the entire freedom from lawlessness and disorder which no native Government would have been able to secure under such circumstances, the successful execution of relief works which will, to a large extent, protect the country from future famines, the graduation of help to suit the necessities of the persons relieved, the comparative economy with which relief on such an extensive scale has been administered, the gradual diminution of the labourers employed on the civil works in respect of whom the complaint of low wages was chiefly urged, and their transfer to the Public Works, the firmness with which prices have been maintained at a moderate rise without any active interference on the part of Government, and the facilities afforded to the transport of grain to the affected districts, these are the points in respect of which the policy adopted by Government has been eminently successful." But this success, says the Subha, has not been attained without some attendant risks. "In the absence of any accurate information it is impossible to make any estimate of the number of people who have succumbed to the famine from starvation, cholera, small-pox and other disorders. Though the death reports and registers do not represent fully the loss of life that has taken place, they still show a total of about 20,000 deaths. Even starvation-deaths have not been so rare as the relief officers have officially represented to Government." As the rains are approaching the Government has issued stringent instructions to relief officers to take greater care of the people than before, to provide them shelter, to bring relief nearer to their doors and to dispense more liberally charitable assistance. The Subha reminds the Local Government that the Bombay system of relief, though more economic, has been much more rigid and exact than the Madras system. Many of the official reports and all the communications received by the Subha regarding the condition of the famine districts during the last three months, we are told, "show that, though there has been no immediate loss of life on any larger scale, yet the low rate of wages and the enforcement of task labour on distant relief works have caused great distress to the workpeople, have emaciated them in body, and permanently impaired their health, and the denial of relief to the land-holding classes has impoverished them to the last degree. In consequence of this emaciation and impaired health and impoverishment the Sabha apprehends that even after the rains set in, Government will find it necessary to support, till the crops ripen, a large portion of the labourers now employed on the works, unless more liberal measures are adopted during the remaining month or two to ward off the effects of the previous exhaustion. As a matter of fact the recent orders of Government show that it fully accepts this additional responsibility to continue its relief for some months after the rains. The apparent saving of money in the expenditure on relief, while the famine lasts, will be thus counterbalanced by an increased expenditure after the rains. If the low rate of wages and the heavy task works had not been enforced, all necessity for relief would have ceased, and the people would have dispersed to their homes after the rains. Even now if a more liberal policy be adopted during the remaining month or two before the rainy season commences, it may be expected that the necessity of continuing relief on a larger scale after the rains might to a great extent be obviated."

The Subha thus vindicates public opinion in respect of administration of famine relief in Bombay. "No small portion of the success," says the Subha," is due to the attitude of complaint and watchfulness taken up by the native and European press, and native representative associations, and the Subha takes this opportunity of acknowledging gratefully the kind condescension of Government in drawing the attention of the relief officers to the representations submitted by the Subha from time to time. In the absence of any constitutional machinery by which the people most intimately affected by the measures of Government can make themselves heard so as to influence the counsels of Government, all independent public bodies have to work under more or less partial ignorance of the intentions and acts of Government, and their action is necessarily one-sided, and oftentimes exaggerated. Moreover, in such extraordinary crisis it often becomes the duty of Government in its public utterances to express more confidence than it feels, and to withhold information in order to avoid panic and disorders, and the loss of self confidence which panic engenders. It must have been for reasons of high policy, such as those indicated above, that the Government have exercised a wise discretion in publishing and withholding from the public the information in its possession." Now that the Bombay Government has enlisted public opinion on its side, we hope it will complete the good work which it has begun. We have no doubt that Sir Richard Temple will rise to the height of the occasion.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

IT IS with great satisfaction that we give prominent insertion to the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal. The testimony borne by His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, to the high worth, sound judgment and patriotic labors of the nobleman whose recent death we so deeply mourn, will be most grateful to the people of this country:

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.
(GENERAL.)
No. 653T.

FROM
S. C. BAYLEY ESQ. C. S. I.
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.
On Tour.

To
MAHARAJAH JOTENDRO MOHUN TAGORE,
Darjeeling, the 17th June 1877.

SIR,—The Lieutenant Governor desires me to convey to you an expression of the deep regret with which he has heard of the death of Maharajah Romanath Tagore, C. S. I., the head of your family.

2. The Maharajah had for many years past been intimately associated with the Government of Bengal, as a Member of the Legislative Council, as a Fellow of the University, and as a Member of the Corporation of the Town of Calcutta, and has ever been distinguished for the sound practical opinions which he has entertained on all questions coming before him in his public capacity and for the moderation and unvarying courtesy with which he has expressed them.

3. Mr. Eden personally feels the loss of an old friend, whose advice and counsel in all matters connected with native interests and feelings he has for many years past been in the habit of seeking and accepting, while educated Native Society loses a recognised leader, who has set an admirable example of toleration and liberality of sentiment, which secured for him the respect and esteem of all classes of Europeans and Natives.

4. The Lieutenant Governor feels that the Government of Bengal has lost in the Maharajah a valued Councillor and co-adjutor whose place it will be difficult to supply.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant,
(Sd.) S. C. Bayley,
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The Committee of the British Indian Association have recorded the following Resolution, to express their sense of the loss they have sustained by the death of the President of the Association:

"The Committee desire to place in record their sense of the great loss which the British Indian Association has sustained by the death of the Maharaja Rammanath Tagore Bahadoor C. S. I. He was one of the founders of the Association and was, at its inaugural meeting, elected a member of its managing Committee. In 1868, he was elected a Vice President, and in 1869 President of the Association. In 1873, he retired from the last named office on his appointment to a seat in the Legislative Council of India, but he was re-elected to it in 1875. His exertions to promote the interests of the Association were unremitting. He came to the rooms of the Association almost every day and regularly attended the meetings of the Association and of its several Committees, and nothing has been done during the career of the Association for five and twenty years, to which he did not pay his earnest attention, or which did not benefit by his valuable advice and suggestions. He personally superintended the financial affairs of the Association, and thereby secured its prosperity. His thorough gentlemanliness, overflowing goodness of heart, and unswerving rectitude of purpose enabled him to maintain perfect harmony in the Councils of the Association and to win the respect of all classes of the community. His labors in the cause of education and progress were most zealous and arduous, and whether as the head of the native community or as a member of the Supreme Legislative Council or the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, or as a Fellow of the Calcutta University, or as a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta, he earnestly advocated every thing that tended to the good of his countrymen. By his death the committee have been deprived of a wise, energetic and revered colleague, the Association its leader, the Government a prudent, faithful and trusted adviser, and the native community an able and warm-hearted advocate whose loss they greatly deplore."

WE REGRET to have to announce the death of Miss Mary Carpenter. She was a warm advocate for the improvement of jails, for the establishment of juvenile reformatories and the extension of female education in this country. She visited India four times, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Bengal Social Science Association and the Indian Association. Though we did not think the schemes propounded by her always feasible or practicable, we are bound to accord to her the full meed of praise for her arduous and disinterested labors for the good of this country. She also did much in England for the reclamation of juvenile offenders, for the employment of female teachers, and the improvement of factory legislation.

IN THE Annual Report of the Calcutta Medical College there is a passage in which Dr. Coates expresses his "wonder that though the degree of M. D. has been opened to candidates since

1867, only four gentlemen have attained that *qualification.*" *Being* new to Calcutta and of a genial kindly nature, full of sympathy for the people, the doctor may well express his wonder in such a matter. But the reason is not far to seek. We do not wish to be hard on the Faculty of Medicine or on the Senators of the Calcutta University, but we cannot help thinking that the rules they have framed for the M. D. examination could not have been, even if they had been expressly designed to keep out all candidates, more prejudicial to graduates than what they are. In the first place, pupils are admitted to the College after passing the F. A. Examination—until lately entrance boys were admitted,—and yet the rules insist that no one shall be admitted to the M. D. examination who has not obtained the B. A. degree. As the time between admission and the M. B. examination has to be devoted to arduous professional studies, embracing a dozen different difficult subjects, it is all but impossible for candidates to qualify themselves at the same time for the B. A. degree. Consequently the door to the honor is closed against them. A few only, and very few indeed, can enter the College after passing the B. A. examination, and these would be qualified for the M. D. degree ; but the framers of the rules seem to have been afraid lest in that way more should get the highest mark of honor than is desirable. Accordingly there occurs a rule which requires that five years of certified practise of the medicial profession is a necessary qualification for M. D. candidates ; that is, a man must begin life, carry on his profession for five years, obtain practice, and then appear as a candidate in the hope of getting the degree—a mere bauble—only the letters M. D. after his name, which bring no grist to the mill —or by failing to attain it, ruin his reputation, injure his practice, and starve his family. The risk is too great to be readily run, and the prize too insignificant to make it anybody's worth to fight for it. With an apparent profession of liberality a rule has been provided for candidates who are not Bachelors in Medicine, but in their case the age limit is 35 years, none under that age can be permitted to appear, and the risk in their case is manifold greater. Those who expected that middle-aged men of forty years or so, who have grown-up sons at school, would themselves, like school-boys, go up for an ordeal, in which the prize is a feather and the blank is next door to ruination, were either too simple to know what they were about, or too jesuitically disposed to be trusted. It is true that in the case of the Doctor in Law degree the five-years-rule obtains ; but there is no examination held for it. An essay on some subject connected with law or jurisprudence has to be written at home and produced, which amounts to writing a book, and the failure of a book never injures a man's practice. The two cases are not at all parallel, and the one cannot justify the other. This is the real cause why there has been such a paucity of candidates for the M. D. degree, and as long as the rules are not changed, so long the door for the M. D. degree to the natives will remain practically closed.

THE LAST *Calcutta Gazette* announces the appointment of eleven new Commissioners for the Suburban Municipality. Six of them are Government servants or Government pensioners, and five non-officials. Taken along with the old Commissioners the proportion is 20 or 21 of officials to 17 non-officials. This affords a curious commentary on the Municipal law, which says that the Government shall not appoint a larger number of officers in the judicial, revenue and the executive services than one-fourth of the total number of Commissioners in any Municipality. The change from one-fourth to a good deal over one-half is a remarkable one. The result has been, we are informed, brought on by taking the words "judicial, revenue and executive" in the law, in their technical senses of Judges, Deputy Collectors and Deputy Magistrates. The object of the legislature was obviously to give a preponderance of power, such as it is, to non-officials, and not to exclude Judges and first class Munsiffs to make room for Darogahs and other subordinates of the Chairman. But the jesuitical interpretation is a convenient one, as it enables the executive to secure an overwhelming official majority and reduce the outsiders to a nullity. The Government, we believe, is innocent of this attempt to drive a coach and four through the law, and so is probably the Chairman, for practically it is the Vice-Chairman of a Municipality who is most interested in such matters, and he prepares his own lists, passes them through the Chairman, who overworked as he is, perhaps asks a Deputy to glance over them, and the Government, as a matter of form, sanctions the nominations. But the public can only look to the Government as the responsible party, and we cannot but blame it for such trifling with the law. The rate-payers of the Suburbs complain of the appointments, as their interests are most unequally represented in the Commission. The whole of the Northern Division has only one representative, the Eastern Division, spreading over nearly seven-sixteenths of the total area, two; and the Southern Division, which in population and area cannot exceed one-third of the jurisdiction, some sixteen representatives, the rest being made up of non-residents. The result is, that whatever good is done by the Municipality is mainly enjoyed by the Southern Division. We hear that four tanks have been excavated in that division for the supply of good drinking water, but none for the other two, though the want of them is felt more severely in the latter than in the former. It is unbecoming the Government to place the rate-payers to such disadvantage.

IT IS not without much interest that we notice a change in the spirit of the *Englishman* anent the Civil Service question. After months of opposition tooth and nail, and no end of bad logic and scurvy badinage our contemporary agrees to the presentation of a limited number of prizes to the natives of the country, to be awarded after local examination and without insistance on subsequent training in England. It is to be in substitution of the present paper scheme of nomination. This is exactly what we, in common with most of our countrymen, have contended for all along, and we are glad to be able to reckon our influential contemporary on our side in this question. At one time or other the concession must be made, though official jealousy and race antipathy may yet cause considerable delay. The *Englishman* desires to make one reservation : those who, after appointment in this country, will go to England and complete their education there will be allowed the option of choosing which line of the service they will enter, whereas those who, after examination, desire to remain in India and finish their education here, will *ipso facto* be understood to have entered the judicial line. As a matter of expediency we do not at all object to it. Some day or other the barrier will have to be broken, but at the first start it may as well be allowed to stand. A fair field and no favor is all that we fight for, and, whatever the inertia of red tape, no honest Englishman can deny it to us. Those who are thick and thin supporters of the present regime, have taken up a new line of argument to keep the natives out of the Service preserve. They urge that competitive examinations are no tests of official capacity in India, and ergo, in this country the present system, which means nepotism, should prevail. Such men however are not open to reason, and even the celebrated recipe of Dr. Johnson about surgical operation, will in their case prove of no avail.

NOTICE.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the 29*th June* next, at 7½ P. M.

Subject : Photography.

Rules of Admission to Lectures of the Association.

Admission invariably by Ticket.

Donors admitted free to all Lectures. Subscribers prepaying for the year or the month admitted free to all the lectures of the year or the month respectively.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture : Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

Tickets to be had of the clerk at the office of the Association between 10½ A. M., and 4½ P. M., (Sundays excepted), and on the day of Lecture up to the time of Lecture.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M D.
Honorary Secretary.

22*nd June* 1877.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P
Khamargachee Des Hitoisheeny Sobha	4	4	0
Secretary Akola General Library	13	4	0
Woodit Narain Muzufferpore	3	0	0
G. A. Mittra Esq., Rawal Pindee	20	0	0
Dynprocash Press, Poona	13	4	0
Kursondas Modhoodoss Esq., Bombay	39	12	0
Syud Wagar Hossein, Colgung	5	0	0
Babu Bejoy Kristo Mookerjee, Ooterparah	13	4	0
,, Bungshee Dhur Roy, Moorshedabad	13	4	0
,, Eshan Chunder Mittra, Hooghly	14	8	0
,, Tarruck Nath Muschuttuck, Allahabad	13	4	0
,, Probodh Chunder Dutt, Nobeegunge	13	4	0
,, Jodoonath Sandel, Lucknow	5	0	0
,, Makhomlal Mojoomdar, Jhargram	15	0	0
,, Pran Kristo Roy, Midnapore	13	4	0
,, Obenash Chunder Chatterjee, Shamsatta	13	4	0
,, Gungapersad, Ajmere	13	4	0
,, Poorno Chunder Banerjee, Indore	13	4	0
,, Nobokrishna Mookerjee, Tezpore	5	0	0
,, Nobokrishna Chuckerbutty, Goorgaon	13	4	0
,, Hurrokanth Bagchee, Pubna	6	10	0
,, Madub Chunder Chatterjee, Kanti	13	4	0
,, Nilratton Roy Chowdry, Mukseedpore	13	4	0
,, Tarrapersad Roy Chowdry, Rampore Hat	6	10	0
,, Rosick Lal Bose, Mohesh	6	10	0

ERRATUM.

READ.—Babu Shamsoondur Chuckerbutty in lieu of Babu Ramsoondur Chuckerbutty Cachar	4	4	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette,—*June* 20, 1877.

GENERAL.—The orders, appointing Baboo Rashomoy Dutta emporary Sub-Deputy Collector, 1st Grade Chittagong, *vice*, Baboo Tarinilal Chowdry, are cancelled.

Baboo Hurrypodo Ghose, Canoongoe 1st Grade Cox's Bazar, temporarily to be Sub-Deputy Collector 1st Grade, Chittagong *vice*, Baboo Tarinilal Chowdry.

Mr. W. H. Nitingale Executive Engineer 1st Calcutta Division, to be a member of the Committee for the management of the Zoological Gardens, Alipore.

Moonshee Kastoree Lall Sub-Deputy Collector, Hazareebagh obtained leave for one month.

In supercession of the orders of the 10th April last, Baboo Bhoirub Nath Palit to be a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 7th Grade and is posted to the Sudder, Station of the Patna district.

Baboo Grindra Nath Chatterjee, Sub-Deputy Collector of the 2nd Grade Diamond Harbour, to be temporary Sub-Deputy Collector of the 1st Grade.

Baboo Baroda Das Bose 1st Grade Canoongoe at Magoora, Jessore, to be a temporary Sub-Deputy Collector 2nd Grade, and is posted to Nurail in Jessore.

Baboo Annodaprosad Sen 1st Grade Sub-Deputy Collector, Nurail, Jessore, transferred to Diamond Harbour, 24-Pergunnahs.

Baboo Jadu Nath Sircar, Sub-Deputy Collector, 2nd Grade, Nowada, Gya, to be a temporary Sub-Deputy Collector 1st Grade *vice*, Baboo Jogendranath Sen.

Baboo Kadernath Mookerjee, to be a Sub-Deputy Collector 2nd Grade and is attached to the Patna division.

Moulvi Abdur Rezak, Sub-Deputy Collector, Behar, transferred to Sasseram, in Shahabad.

Mr. Brown Wood Settlement Officer, Sonthal Pergunnahs, obtained special leave for six months.

Mr. J. Kelleher Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kooshtea division, Nuddea, obtained leave for three months.

Baboo Uma Kant Dass Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Noakhally to act until further orders as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Chittagong.

Baboo Jadunath Sircar, Sub Deputy Collector Nowada, transferred temporarily to the Jehanabad, Division, Gya district.

Baboo Burmdeo Narain, Sub-Deputy Collector Jehanabad, transferred temporary to the Sudder Station of Gya.

Mr. C. R. Marindin Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Buxar Division, Shahabad, vested with the powers of a Collector,

Mr. H. J. Newbery, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong, allowed leave for three months.

Mr. G. M. Currie Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca to act as Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong.

Baboo Nobokristo Ghose, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, transferred to Burdwan.

Mr. Charles Wintle, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, posted to Purneah.

Baboo Bogola Prosonno Mozoomdar Special Sub-Registrar Noakhally having returned to duty, the unexpired portion of his leave is cancelled.

EDUCATION.—Mr. C. H. Reilly, Barrister-at-Law to be a Lecturer at the Presidency College *vice*, Mr. C. F. Egerton Allen.

The services of Mr, C. A. Mills are replaced at the disposal of the Government of Bengal in the Public Works Department.

MEDICAL —Assistant Surgeon Rojoni Lall Sett, Moteehari, of leave for two months.

Assistant Surgeon Nobin Chunder Ghose, to have Medical charge of the Charitable dispensary at Moteehari.

The Services of Sergeon R. T. Wright, Officiating Civil Sergeon of Jessore, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India in the Military Department.

Mr. H. A. Cockerell C.S. to be a Commissioner for making improvements in the Port of Calcutta and also to officiate as Chairman of the Commissioners under Act V (B.C.) of 1870.

Mr. J. D. Maclean C.S. to officiate as a Commissioner for making improvements in the Port of Calcutta.

Mr. S. S. Jones C.S. Officiating Assistant Commissioner, to be a Commissioner of the Hazareebagh and Echak Municipalities.

Advertisements.

NOTICE

Code of Civil Procedure Act X of 1877, Specific Relief Act I, of 1877, Rs. 3.

Sreenath Banerjee, Bhowanipore; Kripanath Ghose, Pleaders' Chamber, High Court.

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 25th June 1877, at 4 P. M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. The Chairman to lay on the table, Report on the Administration of the Municipality for the year 1876, and also the accounts for the same year.

2. The Chairman to lay on the table, the Auditors' Report on the Accounts for the year 1876.

3. The Chairman to submit Rules for conduct of business at Meetings recommended for adoption by the Committee for Bye-laws.

4. The Chairman to submit for confirmation Proceedings of the Committee for Finance at Meetings held on the 14th, 17th, 21st, 23rd and 28th May and 9th June.

5. The Chairman to submit for consideration Proceedings of the Committee for Lighting, at a Meeting held on the 6th June.

6. The Chairman to submit for consideration letter from Baboo Subbeshur Sen, requesting that the passage leading from Bhowany Churn Dutt's 1st Lane to College Street may be named after him, and letter from the Commissioners of the Ward recommending that the request be granted.

7. The Chairman to lay on the table, Statement of Accounts for the month of May 1877.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

NOTICE.

On the 28th day of June instant.

The properties mentioned in the following Schedules A and B will be sold by Messrs. Mackenzie Lyall & Co. at the Exchange Commercial sale rooms.

Under instructions from the Trustees of the Estate of Baboo Nolitmohun Dass.

The properties in Schedule B will be sold with the concurrence of the Mortgagee thereof.

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Schedule A.

1. No. 17 Copallytollah Lane, upper-roomed house, known as Thacoorbarry (one-eighth share.)
2. No. 5 Nolitmohun Dass' Lane at Copallytollah Lane tenanted land.
3. No. 7 ditto.
4. No. 8 ditto.
5. No. 3 ditto.
6. No. 39 Gooriahmahs' Lane.

Schedule B.

1. No. 20 Copallytollah Lane and Nos. 9 and 10 Kenderdines' Lane upper-roomed house, known as Family Dwelling House.
2. No. 37 Copallytollah Lane, lower-roomed stable and coach house.
3. No. 42 Copallytollah Lane upper-roomed house.

Removal.

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